

MARVEL

SPIDER-MAN:

BLACK CAT



VAN METER • PULIDO • RODRIGUEZ

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

BLACK CAT

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN PRESENTS: BLACK CAT

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WITH **JAVIER RODRIGUEZ**

Letterer: **VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA**

Cover Art: **AMANDA CONNER &
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Colorist: **JOHN RAUCH**

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Editor: **JODY LEHEUP**

Special thanks to Chris Allo

"THE OTHER WOMAN"

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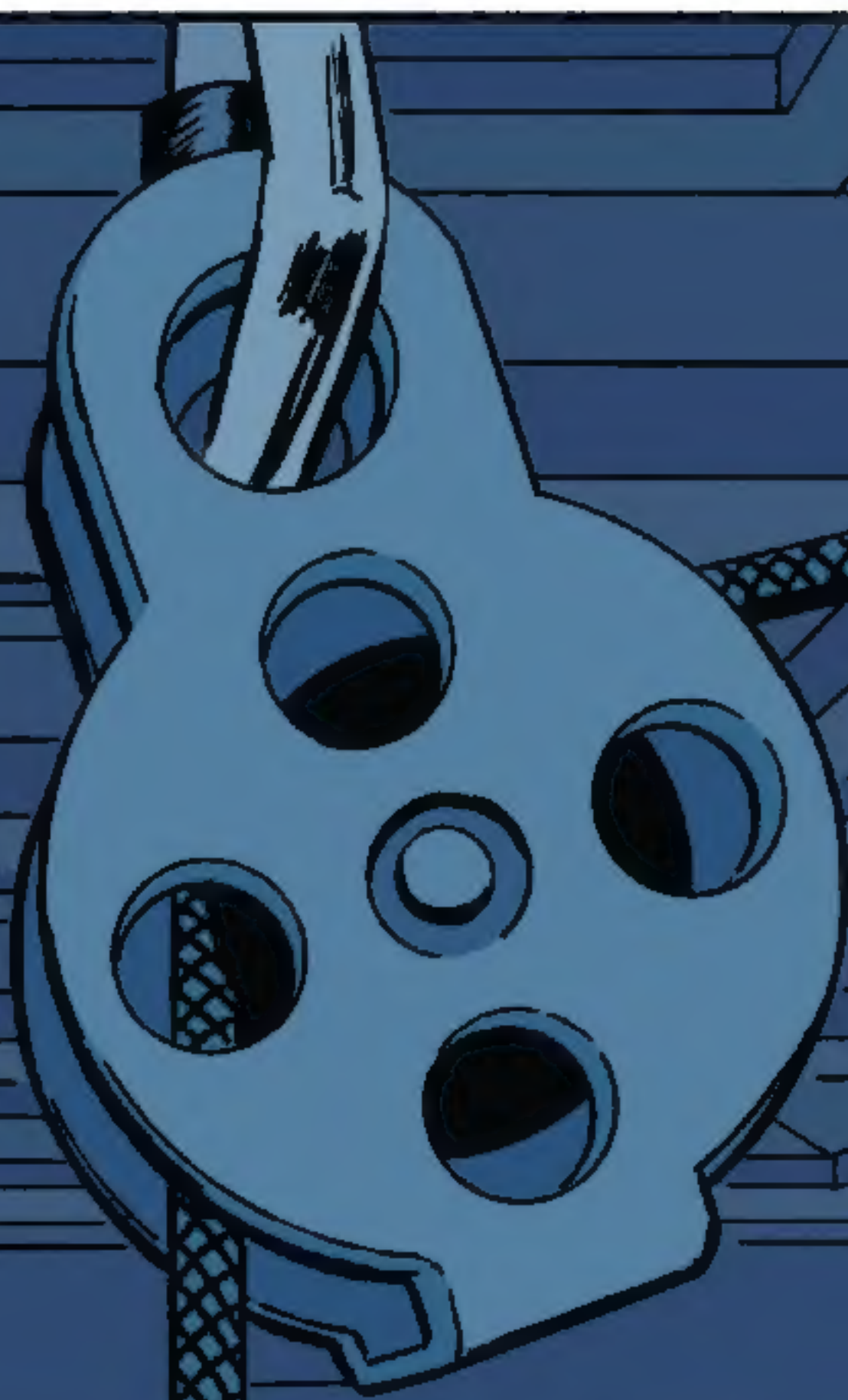
Black Cat, aka Felicia Hardy, is a sexy super-human with the ability to bring bad fortune to anyone in her vicinity. Like her father Walter Hardy (A.k.a. The Cat), she is a master burglar and extremely agile, but Felicia's misdeeds never extend past thievery. In fact, she often employs her feline skills to help Spider-Man, a friend with whom she shares a romantic and crime-fighting past.

Now their paths have crossed again, and a strictly masks-on physical relationship has developed. Felicia is also working for the Mayor's office as Mayor Jameson's head of investigations.



VAN METER
PULIDO
HOLLINGSWORTH

Black
Cat:



I ONLY
CAME BECAUSE
I KNEW YOU'D
BE HERE.

I WAS THINKING
OF YOU AS I
DRESSED FOR
TONIGHT.

FOR US.

The Trophy Hunters

I KNOW YOU NEED
TO BE *CHASED*.
THAT'S OKAY.

I LIKE THE
FLIRTATION.

P
a
r
t
o
n
e

A LITTLE
MANEUVERING...
JUST TO GET
YOU *ALONE*.

IT'S EXQUISITE.
SO *CLOSE* I CAN
ALMOST *TASTE*
YOU, AND--

KRSH

Jen Van Meter
writer

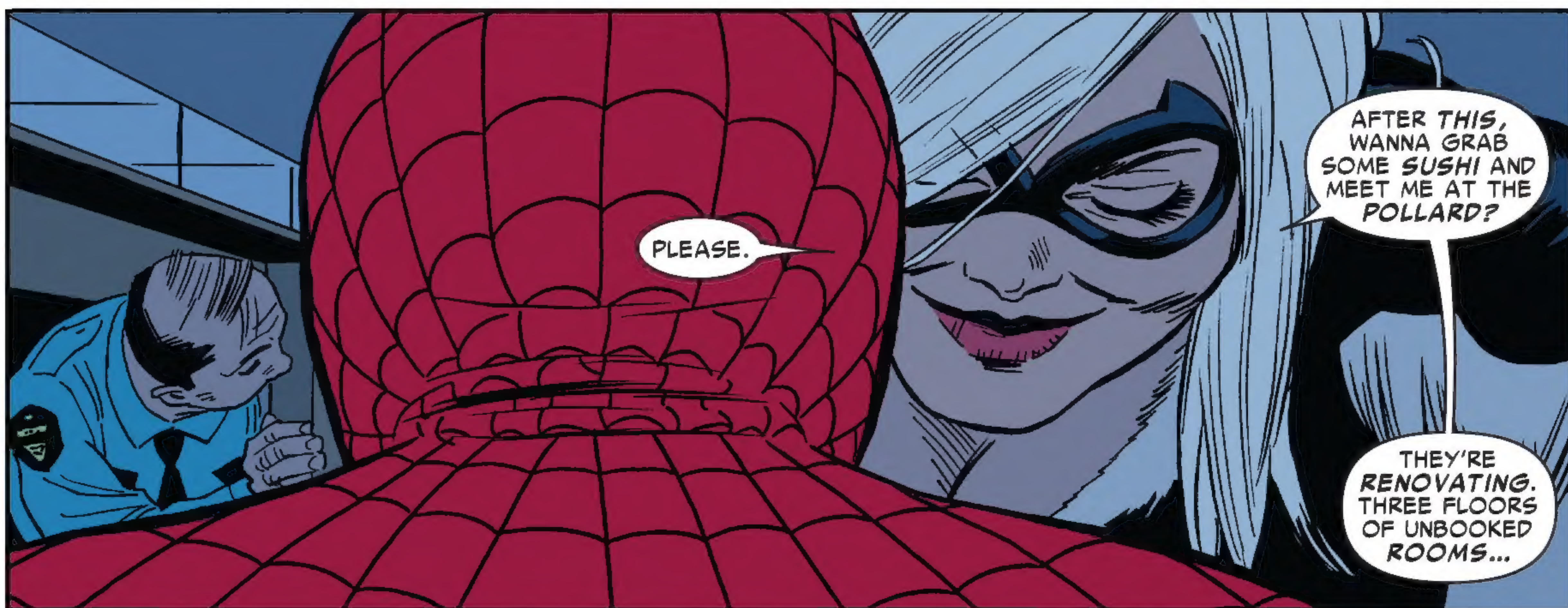
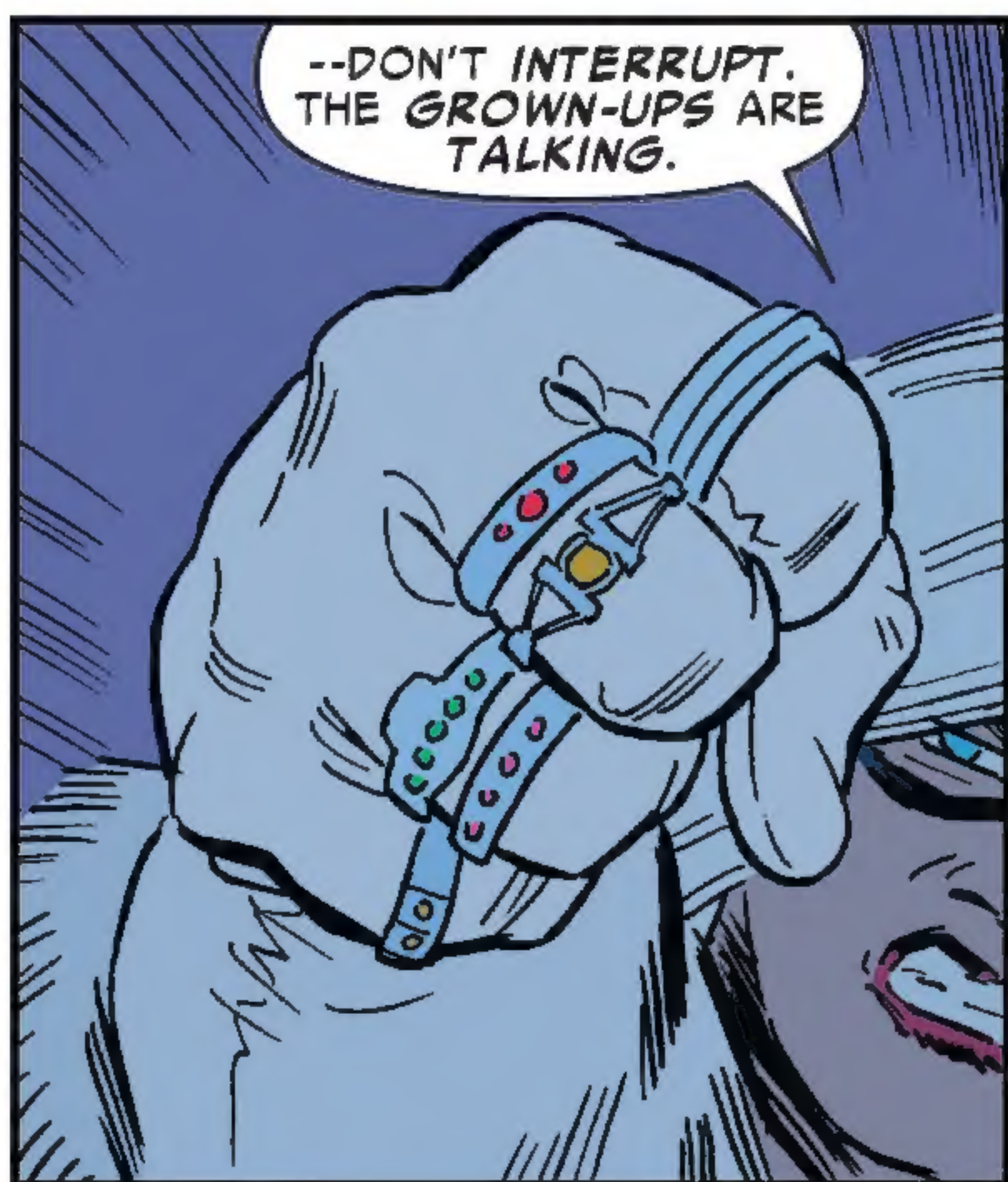
Javier Pulido
artist

Matt Hollingsworth
colors

Vc's Joe Caramagna
letters

--AND THEN SOME
DAMN *DRUNK*
BARGES IN LOOKING
FOR THE *JOHN*.







"...AND A
BED IN EVERY
ONE."

I KNOW
WHY I'M TALKY--
I DON'T SPEND THREE
WEEKS PREPPING A
JOB SO SOME SLOB
CAN STEP ON MY
ACT. BUT YOU...

...YOU'RE
EDGY. WHAT'S
GOING ON?

HAVEN'T
BEEN SLEEPING
WELL. DREAMS--
ALMOST EVERY
NIGHT NOW.

EVERYTHING
IN RUSSIAN...I
CAN'T EXPLAIN WHY
IT'S GETTING
TO ME.



IT'S LIKE
BEING STALKED.
MAKES YOU FEEL
VULNERABLE--
EXPOSED.

THAT'S
EXACTLY IT. AND
IT FEELS...DIRECTED--
LIKE SOMETHING'S
COMING BUT I DON'T
KNOW WHAT.
LISTEN...



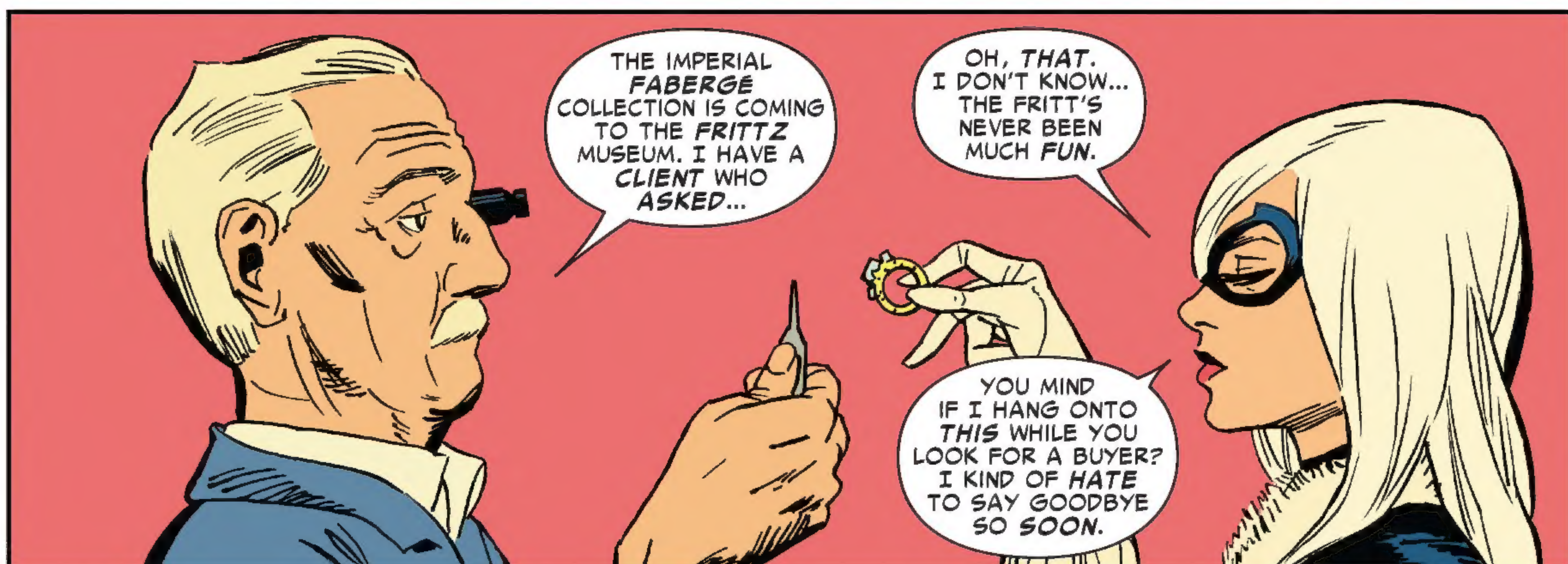
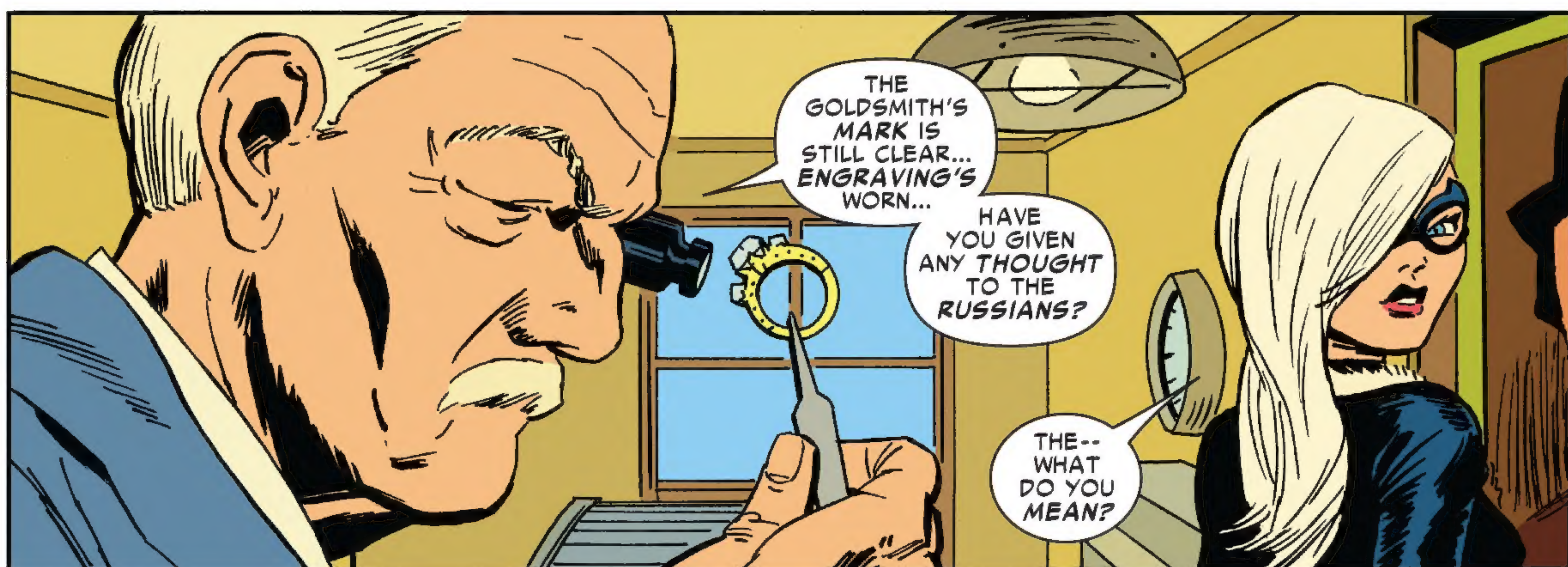
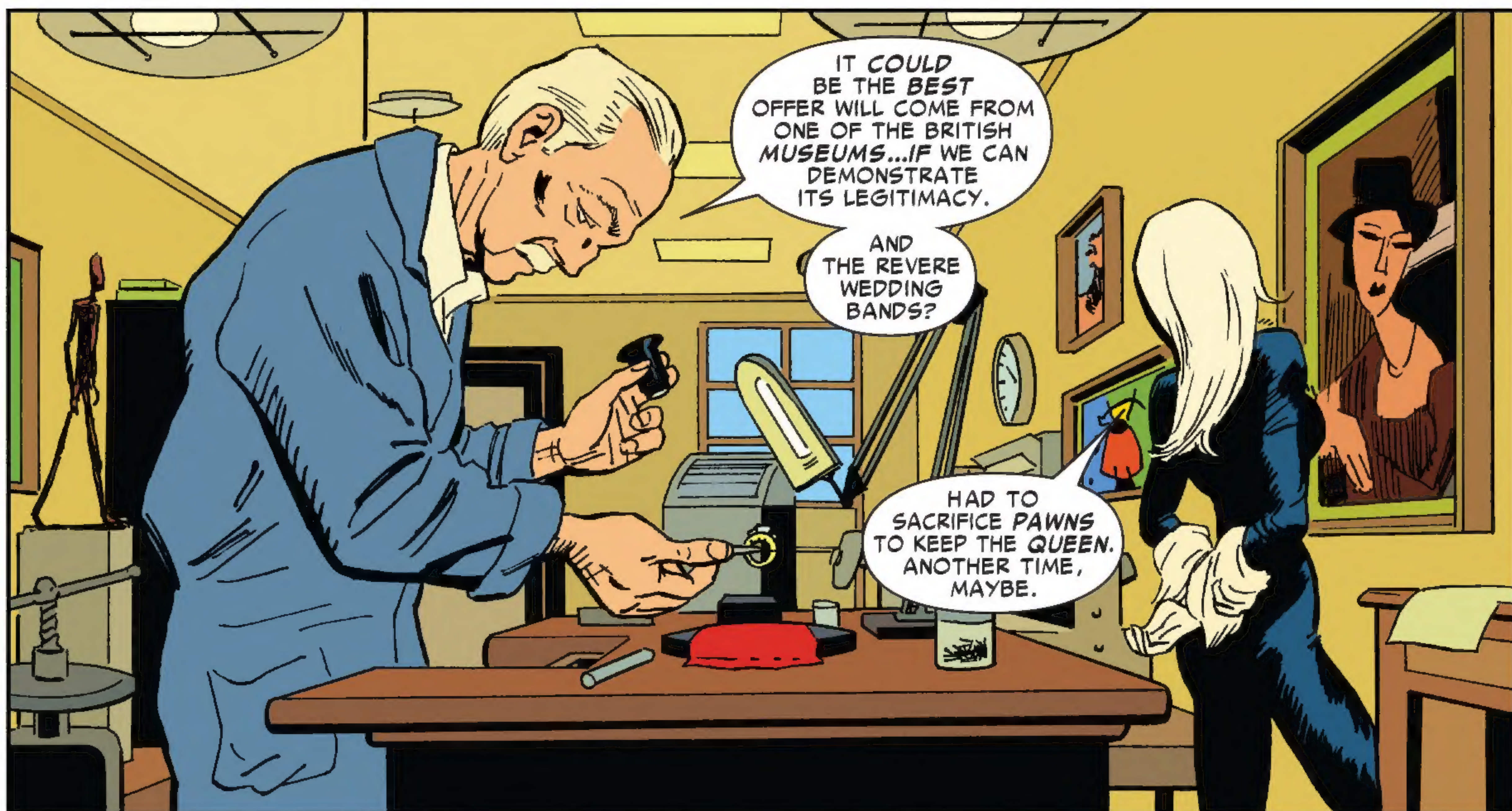
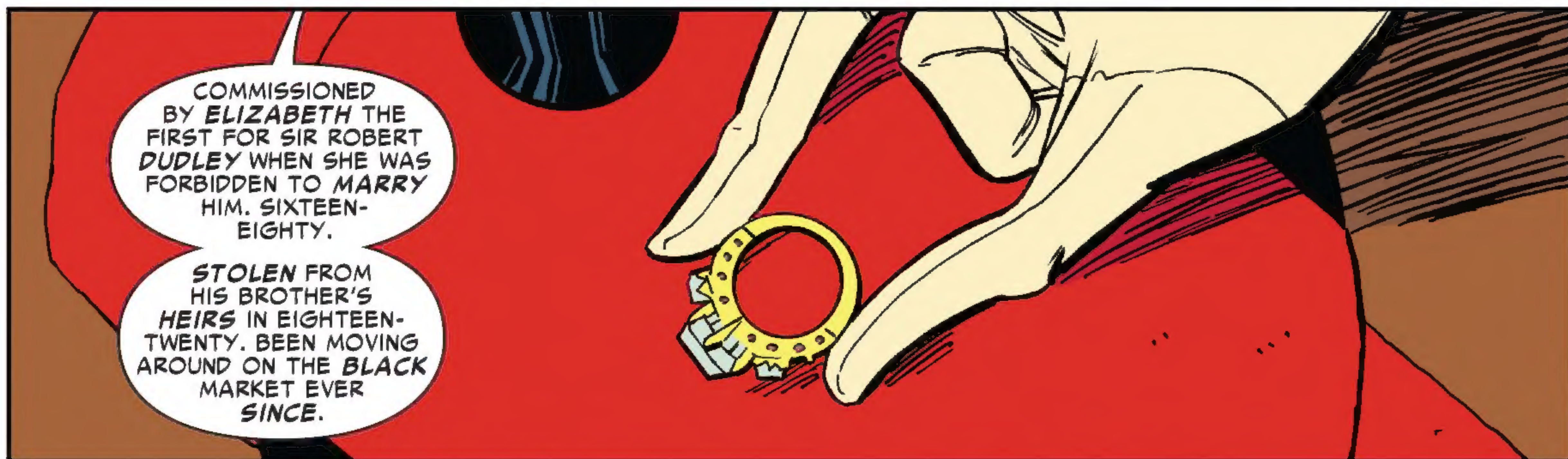
...YOU KNOW
I NEED TO
RETURN THESE TO
THE OWNER,
RIGHT?



I DON'T
WANT YOU TO
THINK I--

NO, IT'S
COOL.

I GOT
WHAT I WAS
REALLY AFTER
TONIGHT.



Several Years Ago.

THE...PARTING...
HAS OF COURSE
PAINED ME DEEPLY.
OUR LOVE WAS...
UNRIVALED.

IT IS
GOOD OF YOU
TO TAKE TIME
FROM YOUR STUDIES
TO PAY YOUR
RESPECTS.

I AM NOT
SURPRISED--
YOUR MOTHER WAS
LOYAL TO THE LAST.
YOUR FATHER,
PERHAPS, TOOK
DUTY TOO FAR...

AND FOR
THAT I APOLOGIZE,
MA'AM. WHEN I LEARNED
MY FATHER HAD
ABETTED YOUR
HUSBAND'S SUICIDE, I--

YOU OWE
ME NO APOLOGY.
AND YOUR FATHER
GAVE HIS...IN
THE END.

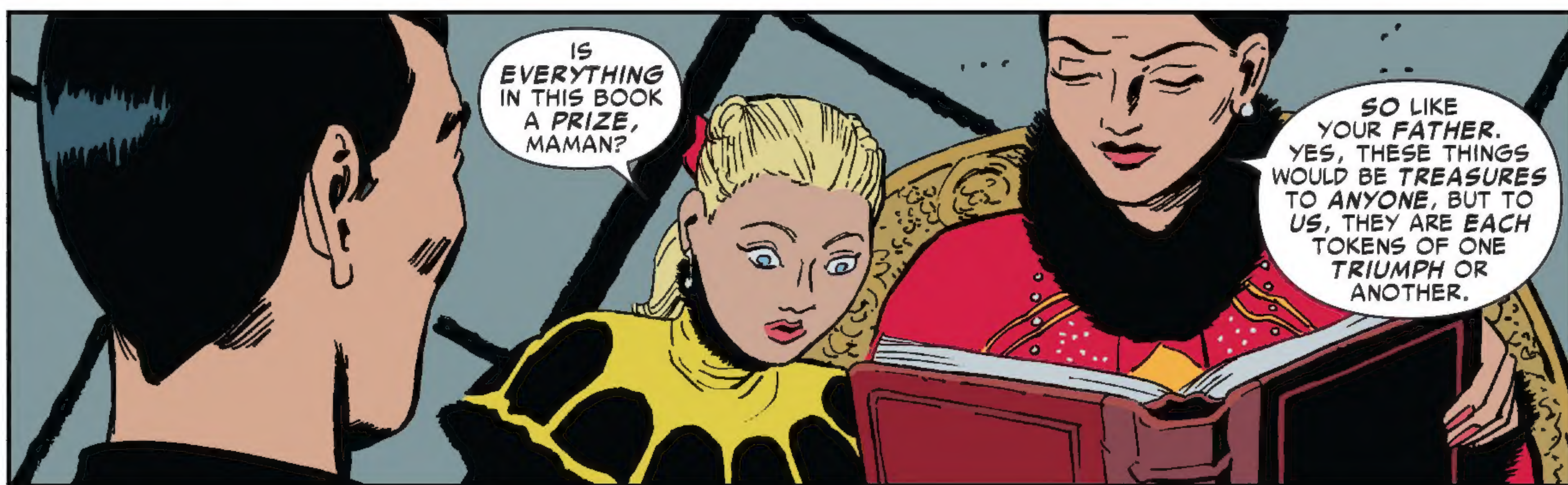
AH, COME,
DEAR. I WISH
YOU MEET
SOMEONE.

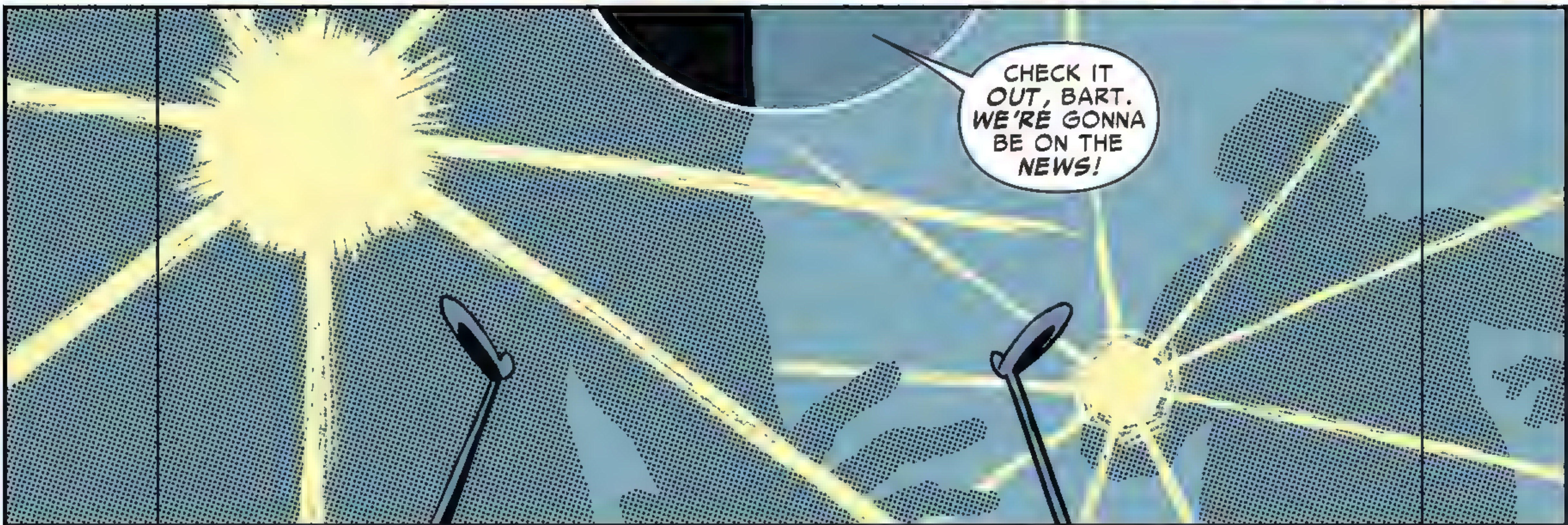
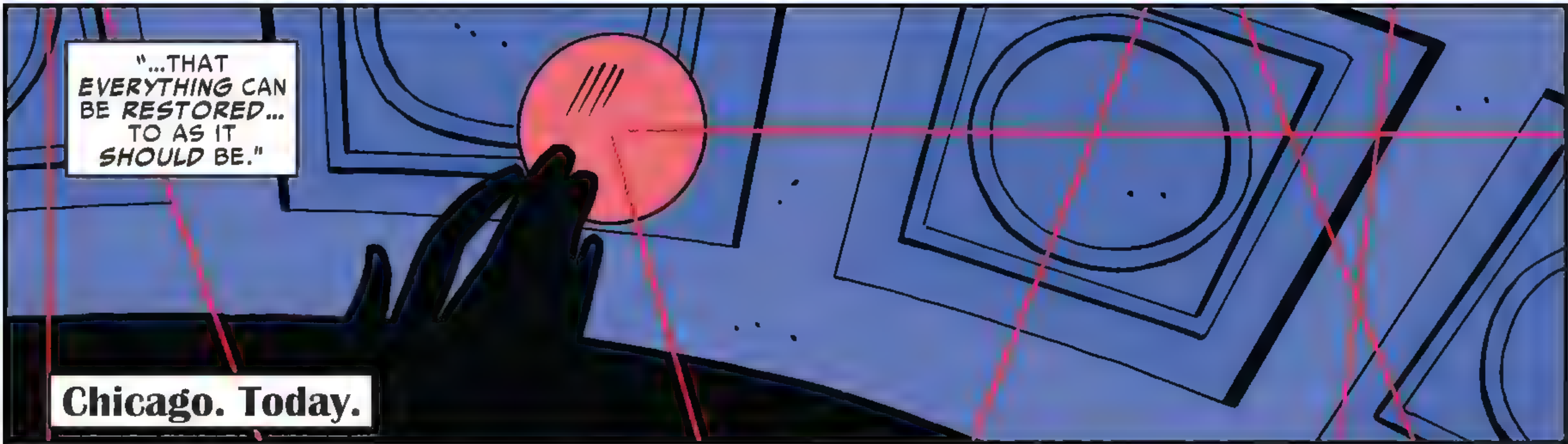
ANASTASIA,
THIS IS VASILI
HOLPKIN SIDOROV.
YOUR FRENCH
TUTOR IS HIS
AUNT.

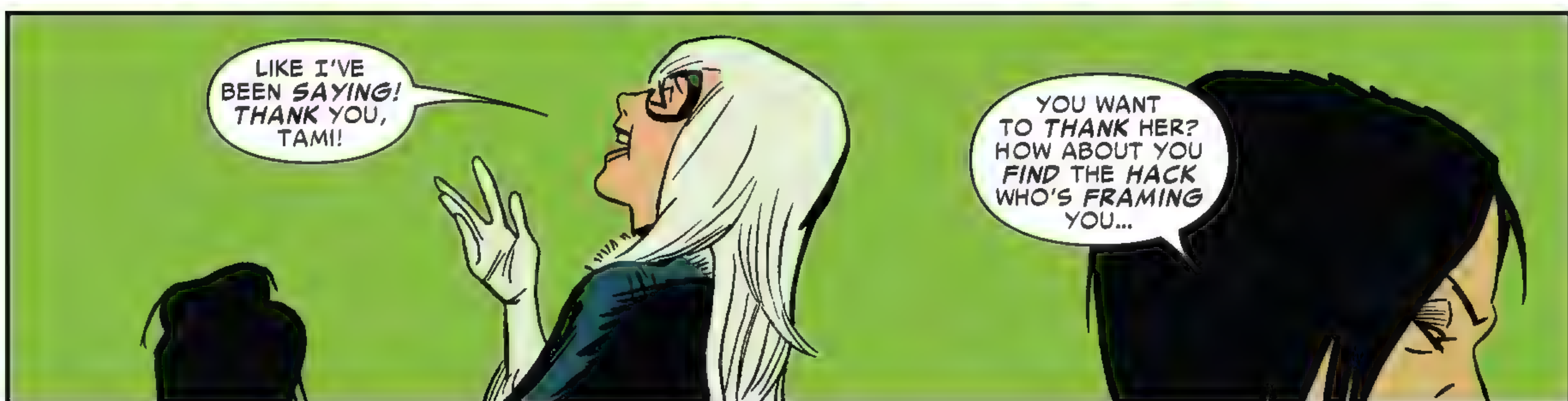
VASIL--MY
YOUNGEST
CHILD,
ANASTASIA
KRAVINOFF.

I'M
PLEASED TO
MEET YOU, SIR.
YOUR AUNT IS
VERY PATIENT.

THE
PLEASURE IS
MINE, MISS. I'M
SURE YOU
ARE A FINE
STUDENT.



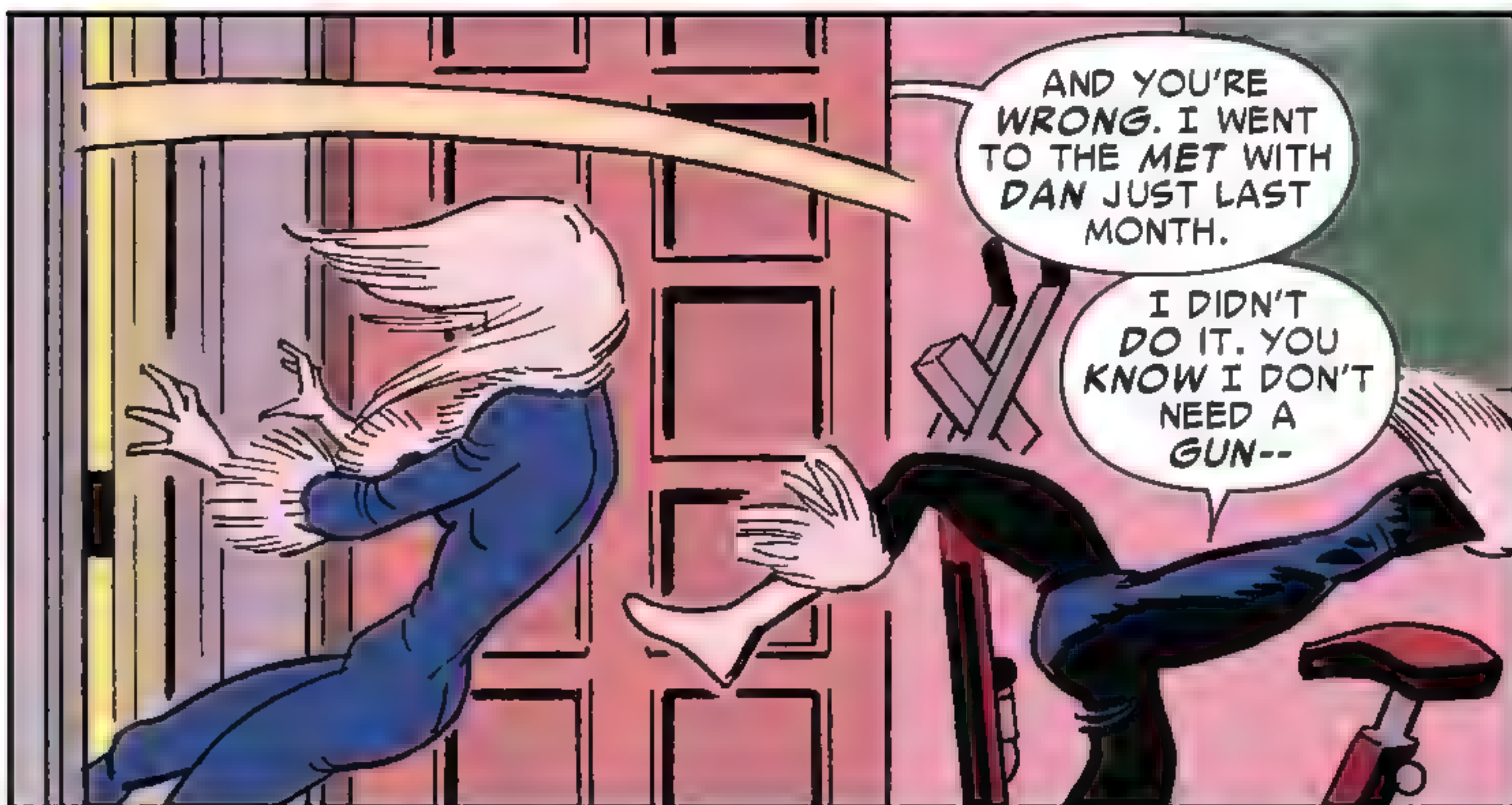
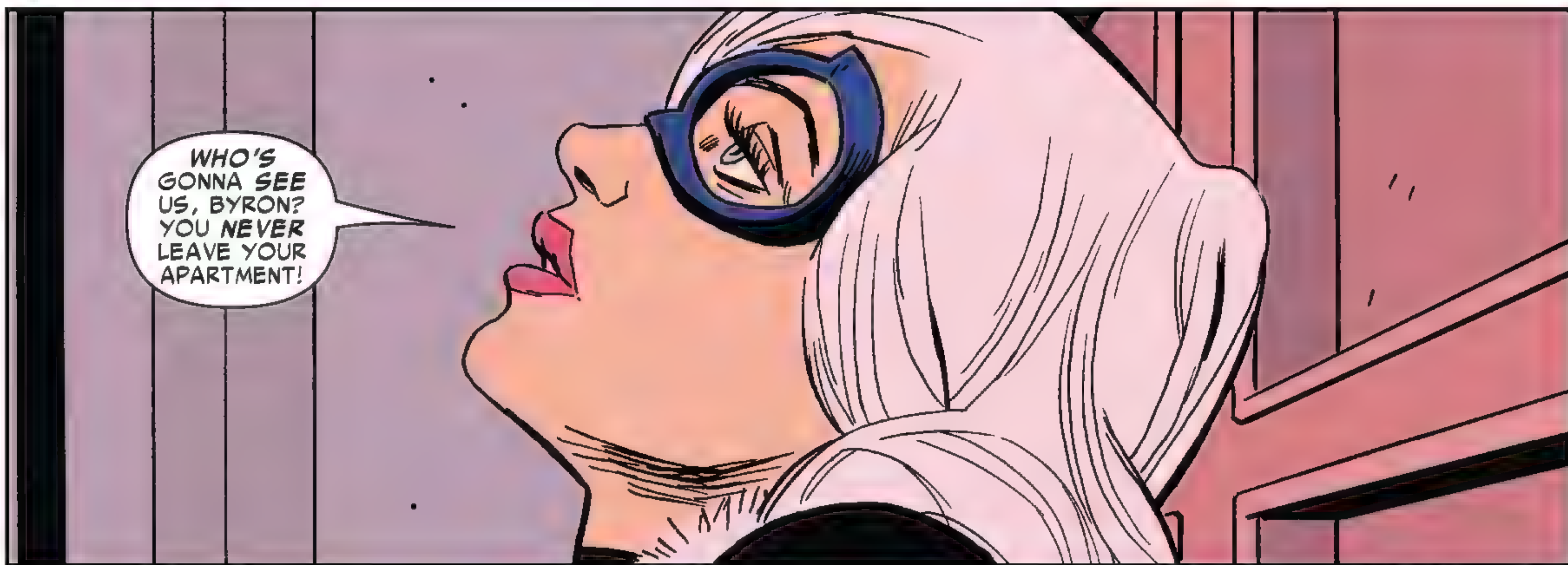


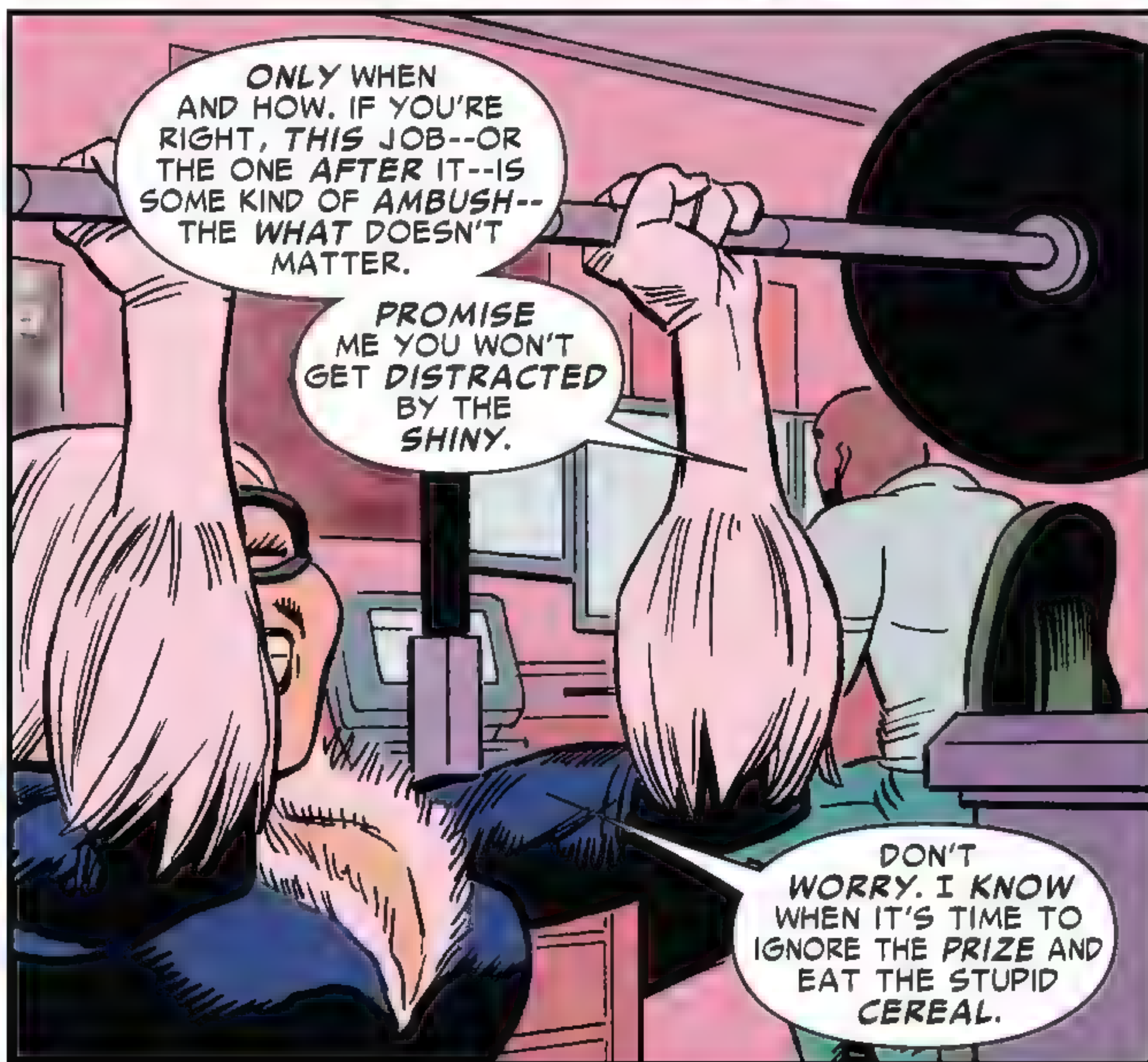
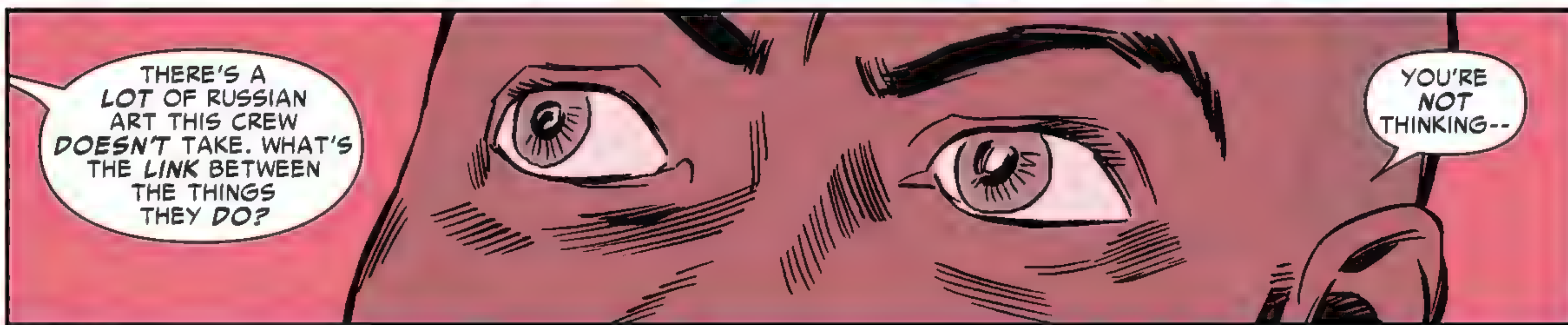
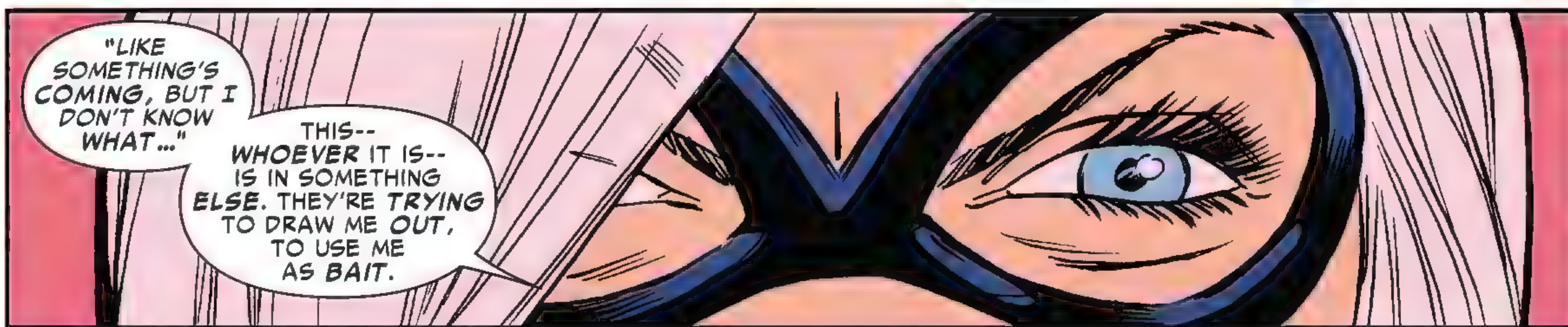
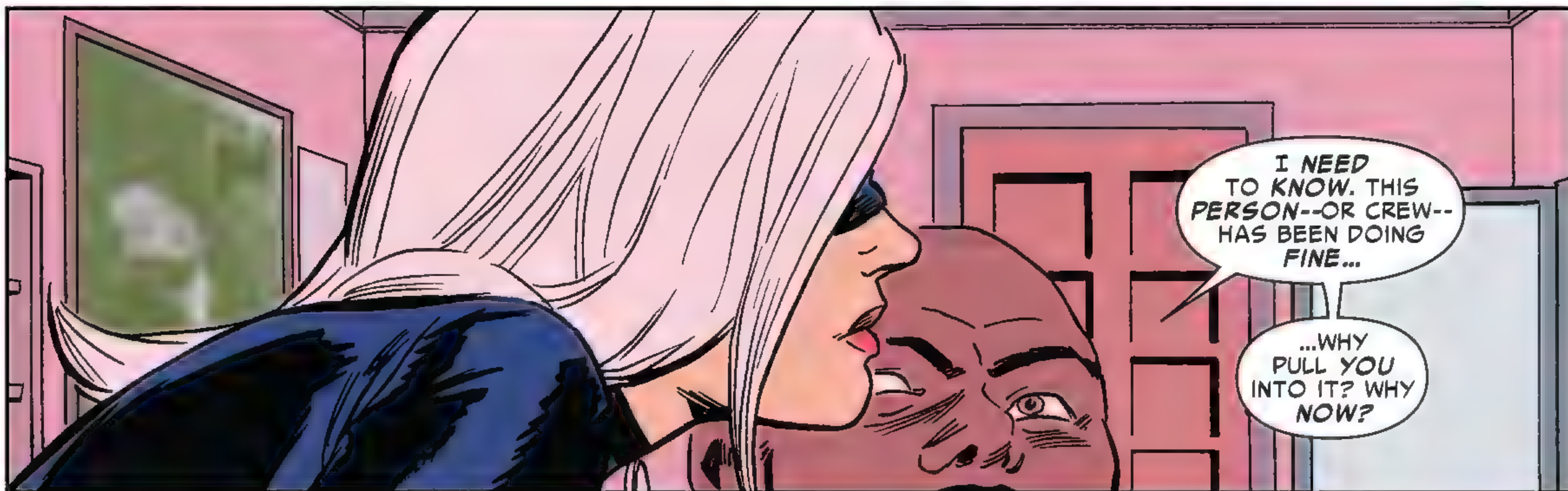
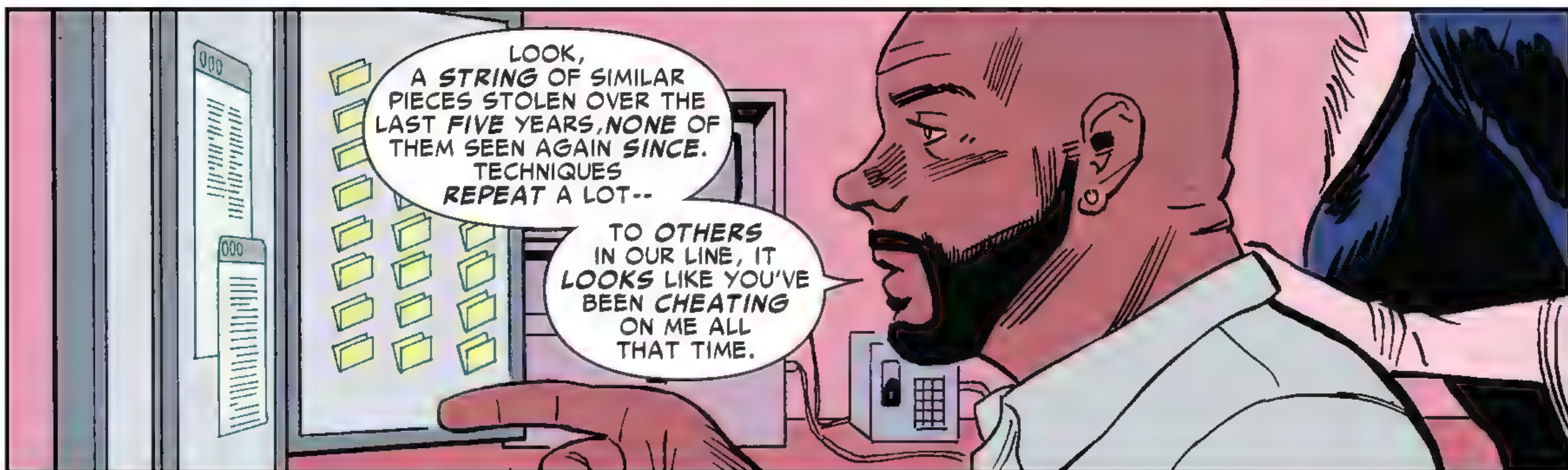


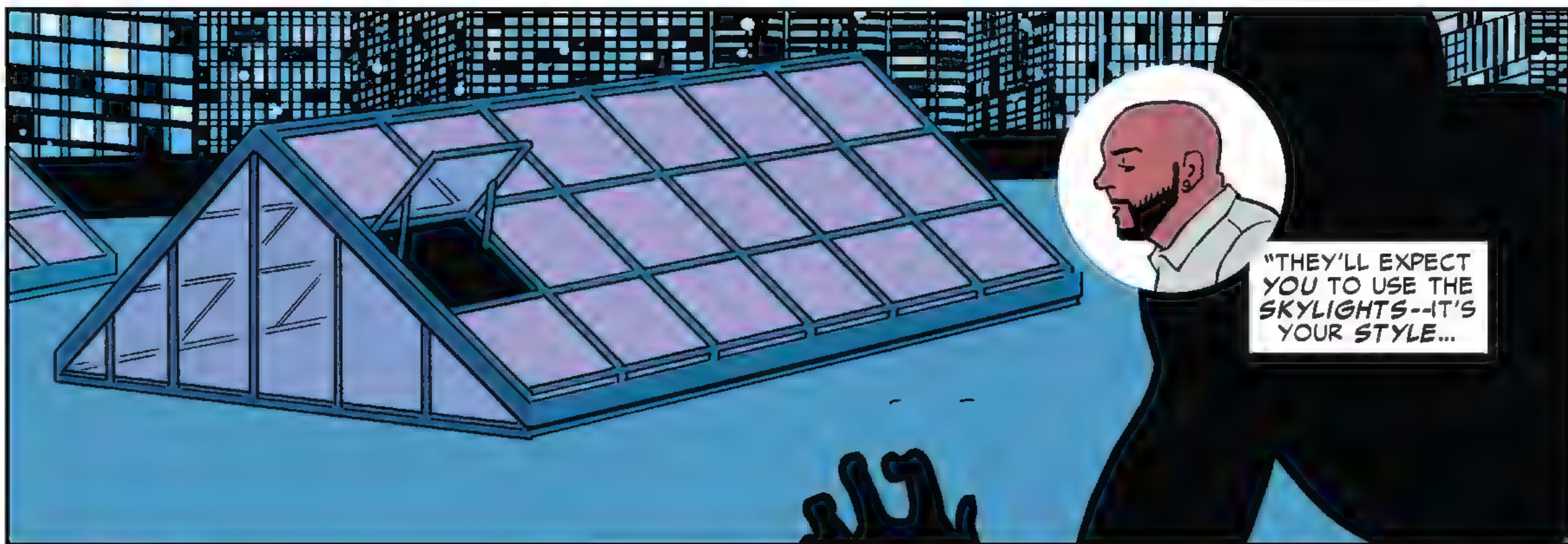
"...BEFORE ALL OUR
REPUTATIONS
ARE IN THE
TOILET."

Sonoma, California.

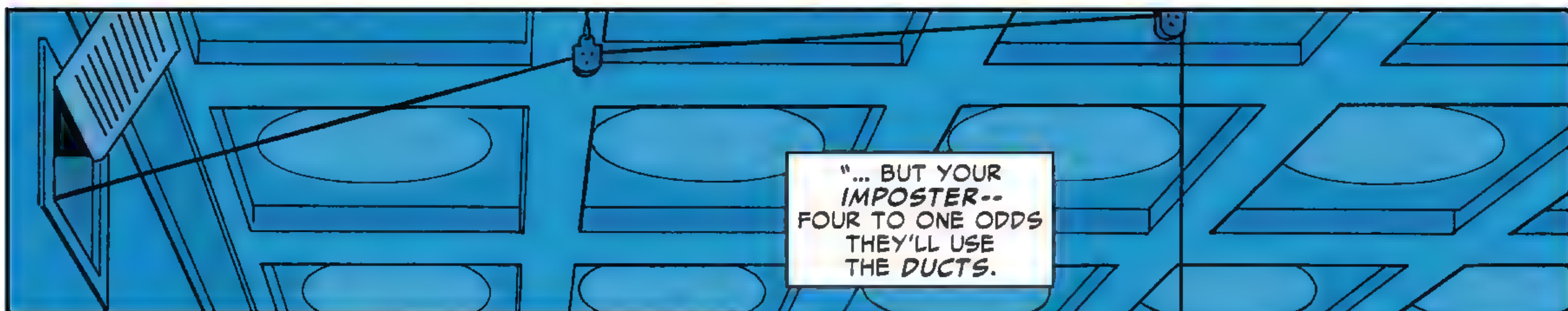








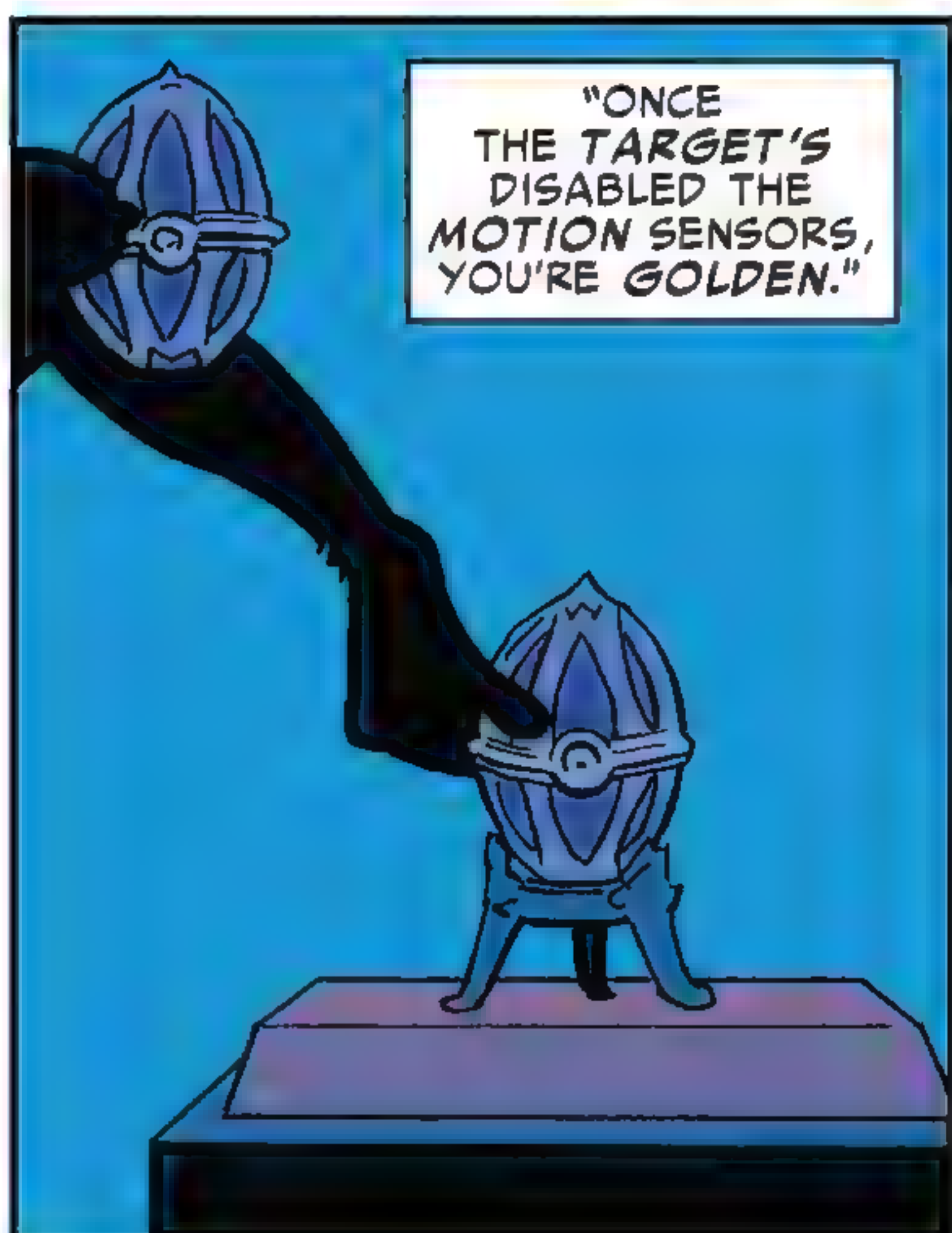
"THEY'LL EXPECT YOU TO USE THE SKYLIGHTS--IT'S YOUR STYLE..."



"... BUT YOUR IMPOSTER-- FOUR TO ONE ODDS THEY'LL USE THE DUCTS."



"SECURITY IS MOSTLY HUMAN BECAUSE OF THE AGE OF THE BUILDING..."



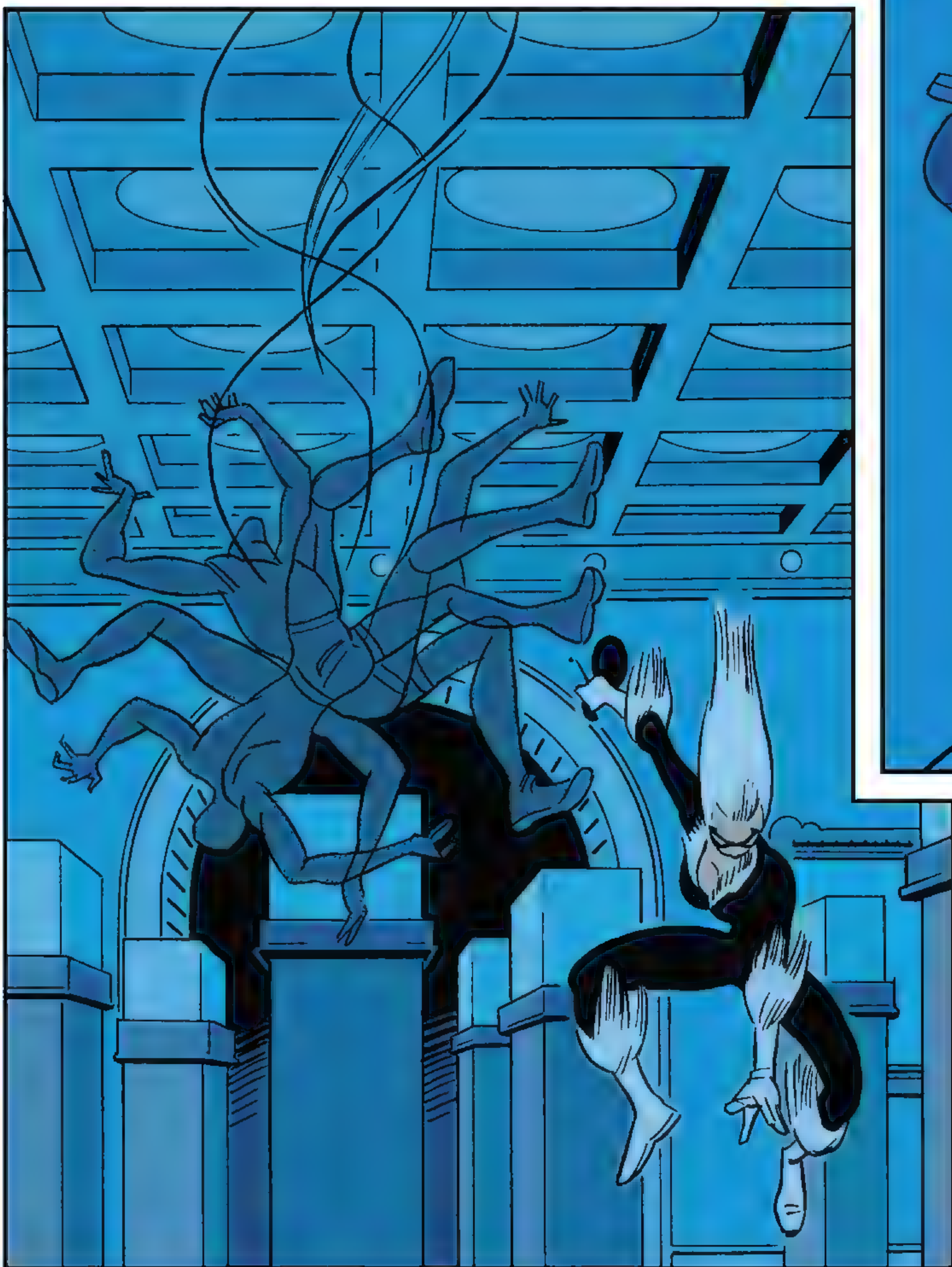
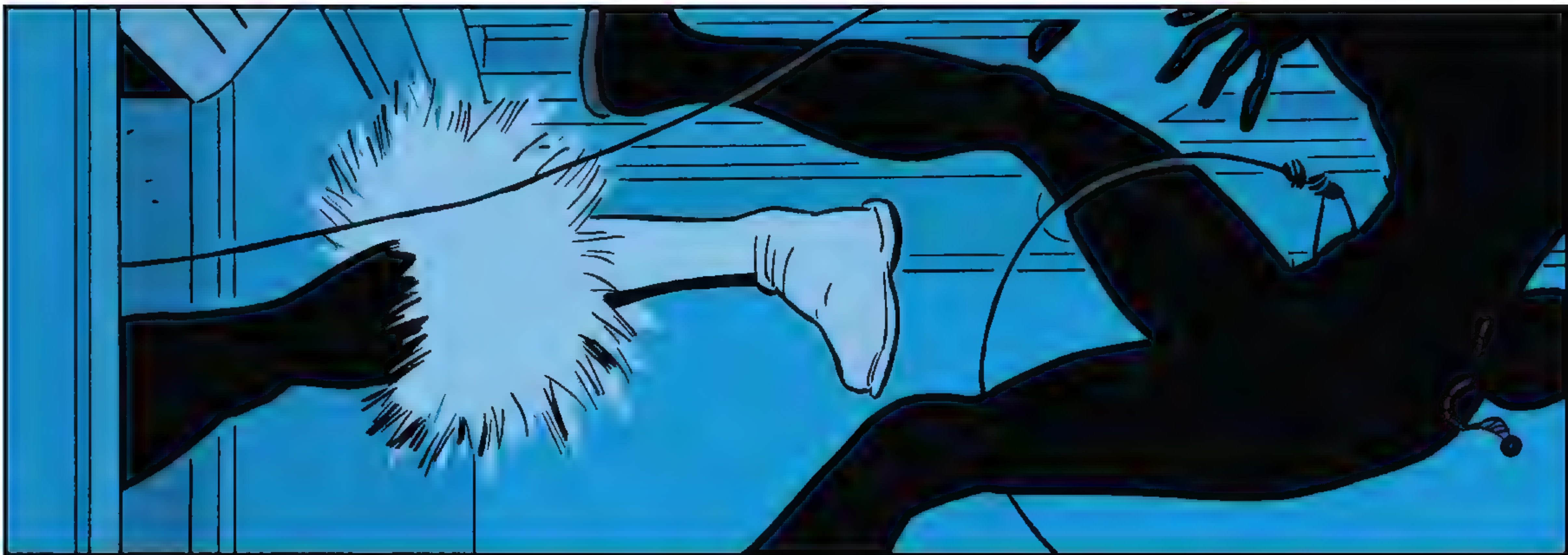
"ONCE THE TARGET'S DISABLED THE MOTION SENSORS, YOU'RE GOLDEN."



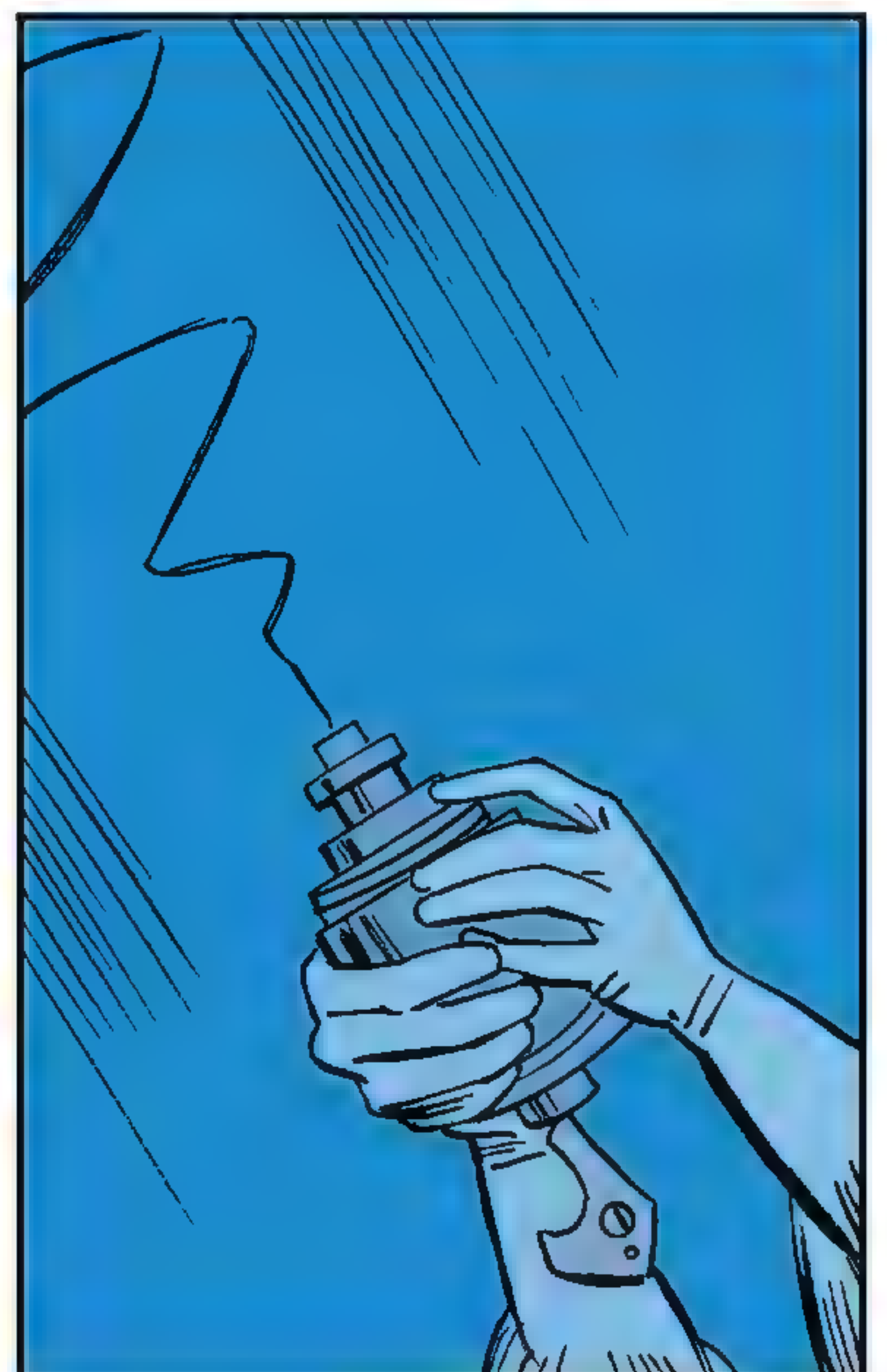
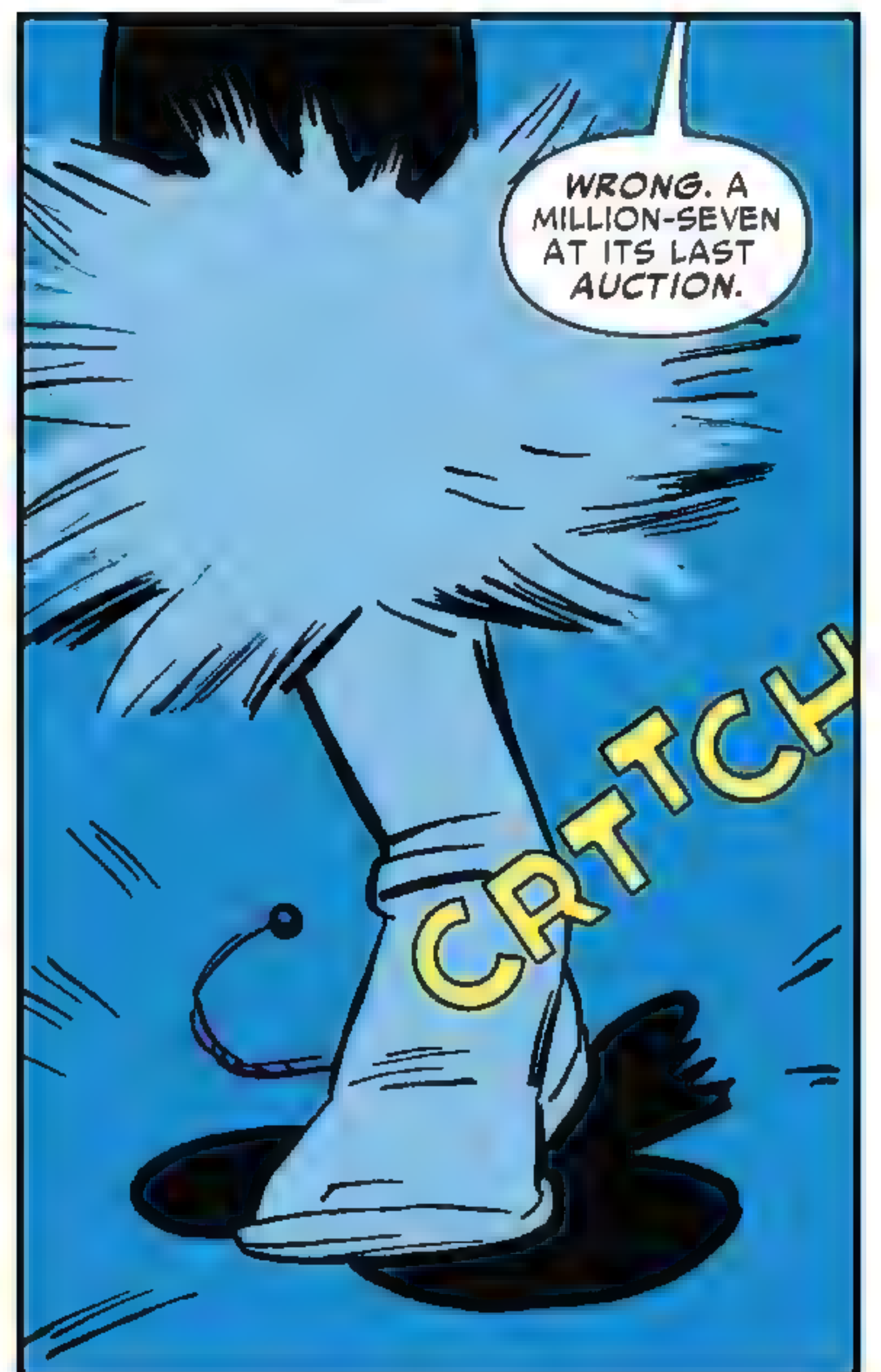
"WEIGHT ALARMS IN THE CASES MEANS PROBABLY AN AERIAL RIG. THEY'LL BE VULNERABLE."



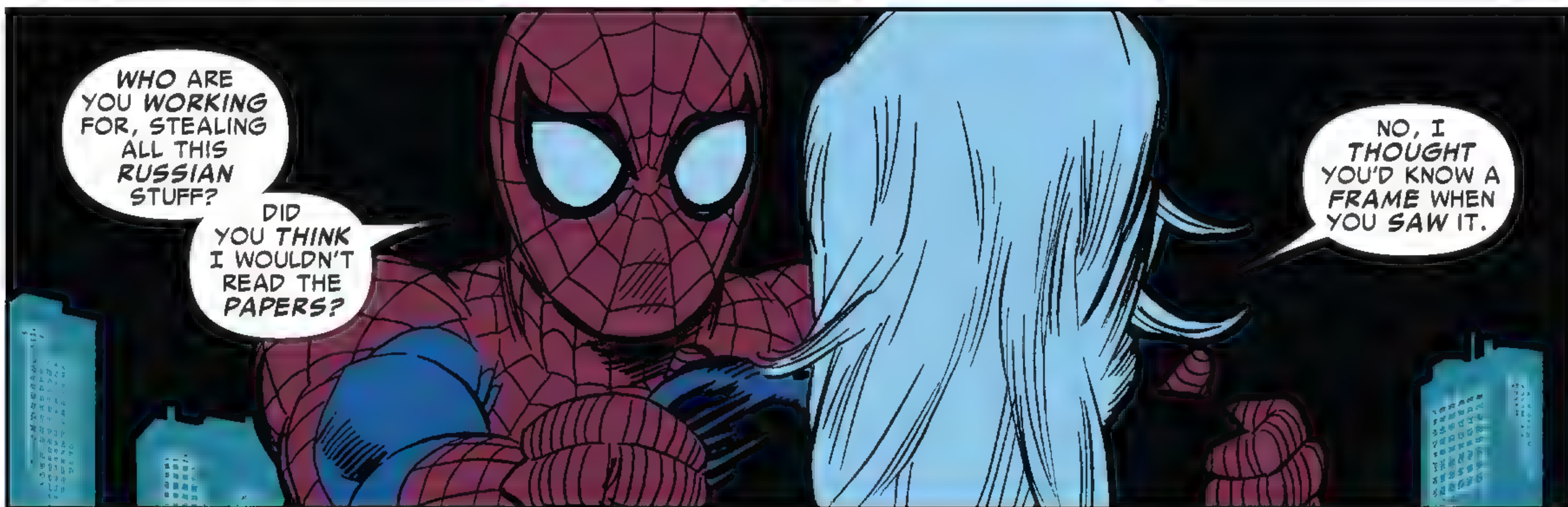
"HIT THEM EARLY, AND REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID..."







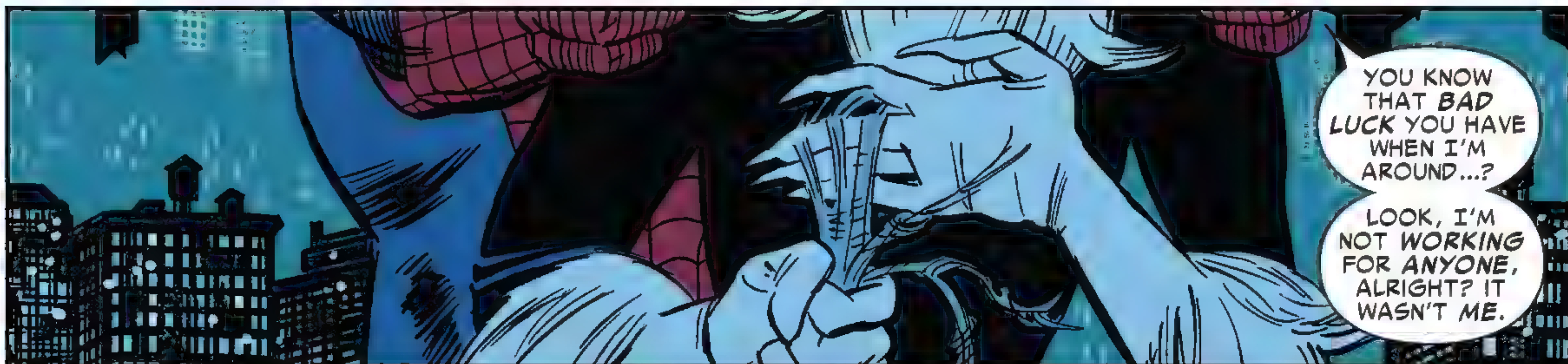




WHO ARE YOU WORKING FOR, STEALING ALL THIS RUSSIAN STUFF?

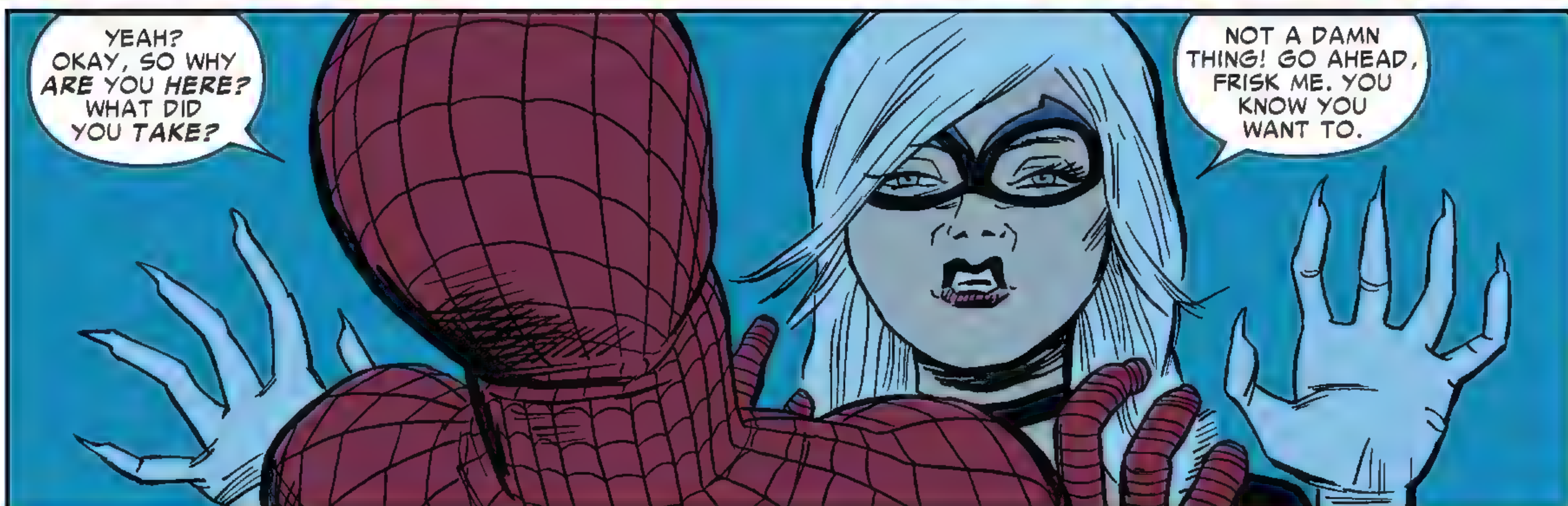
DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T READ THE PAPERS?

NO, I THOUGHT YOU'D KNOW A FRAME WHEN YOU SAW IT.



YOU KNOW THAT **BAD LUCK** YOU HAVE WHEN I'M AROUND...?

LOOK, I'M NOT WORKING FOR ANYONE, ALRIGHT? IT WASN'T ME.



YEAH? OKAY, SO WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHAT DID YOU TAKE?

NOT A DAMN THING! GO AHEAD, FRISK ME. YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO.

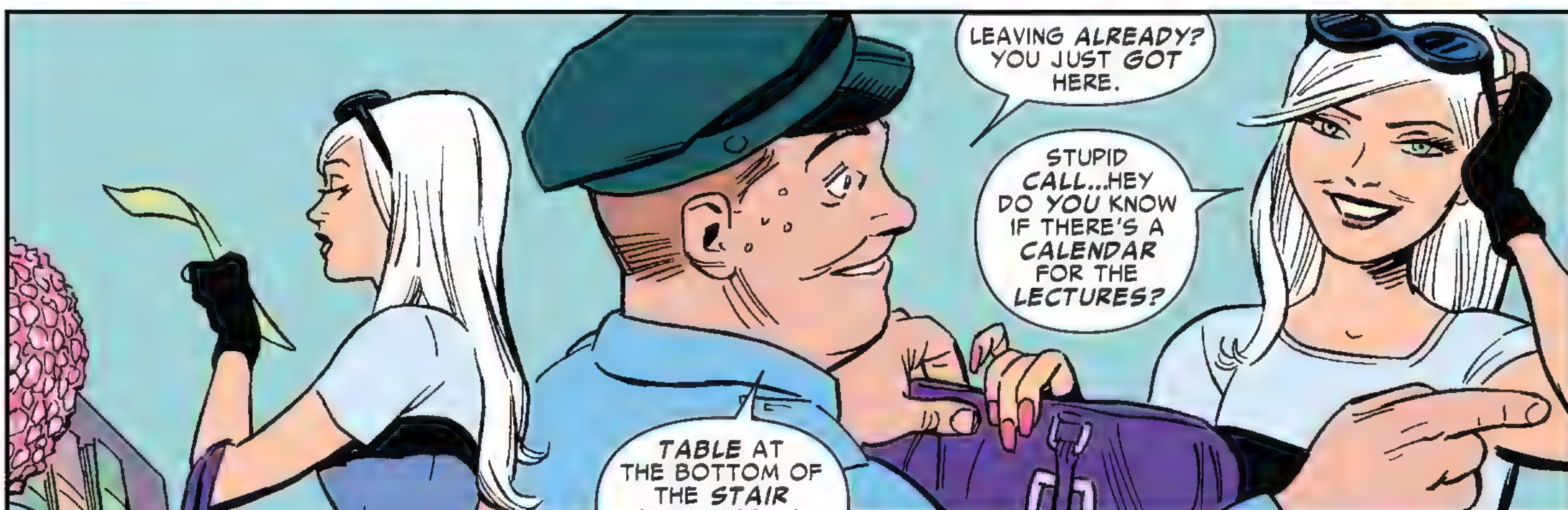
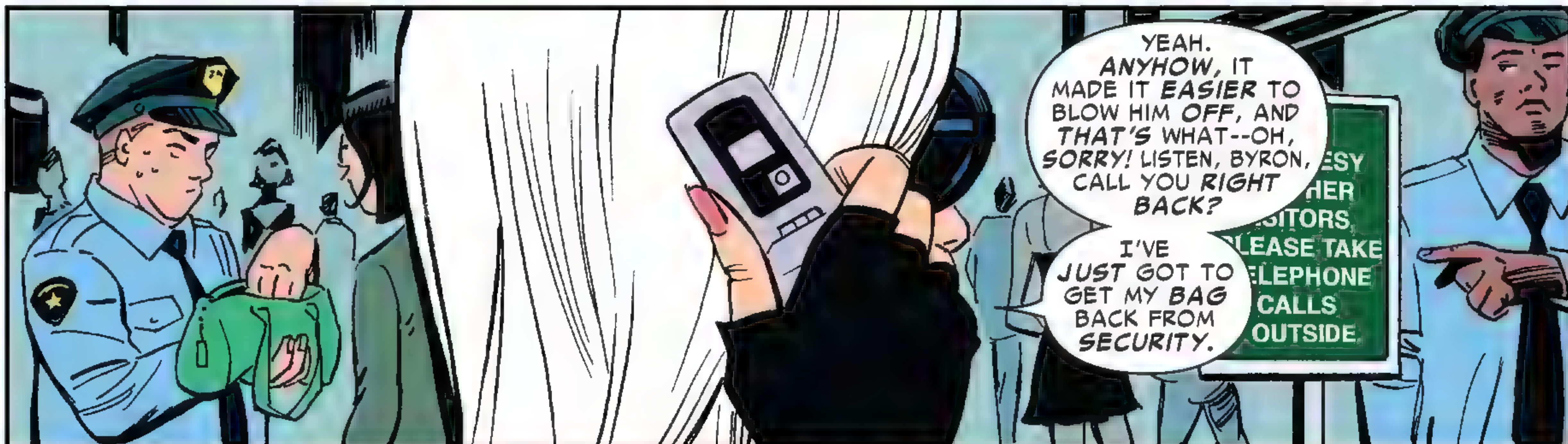


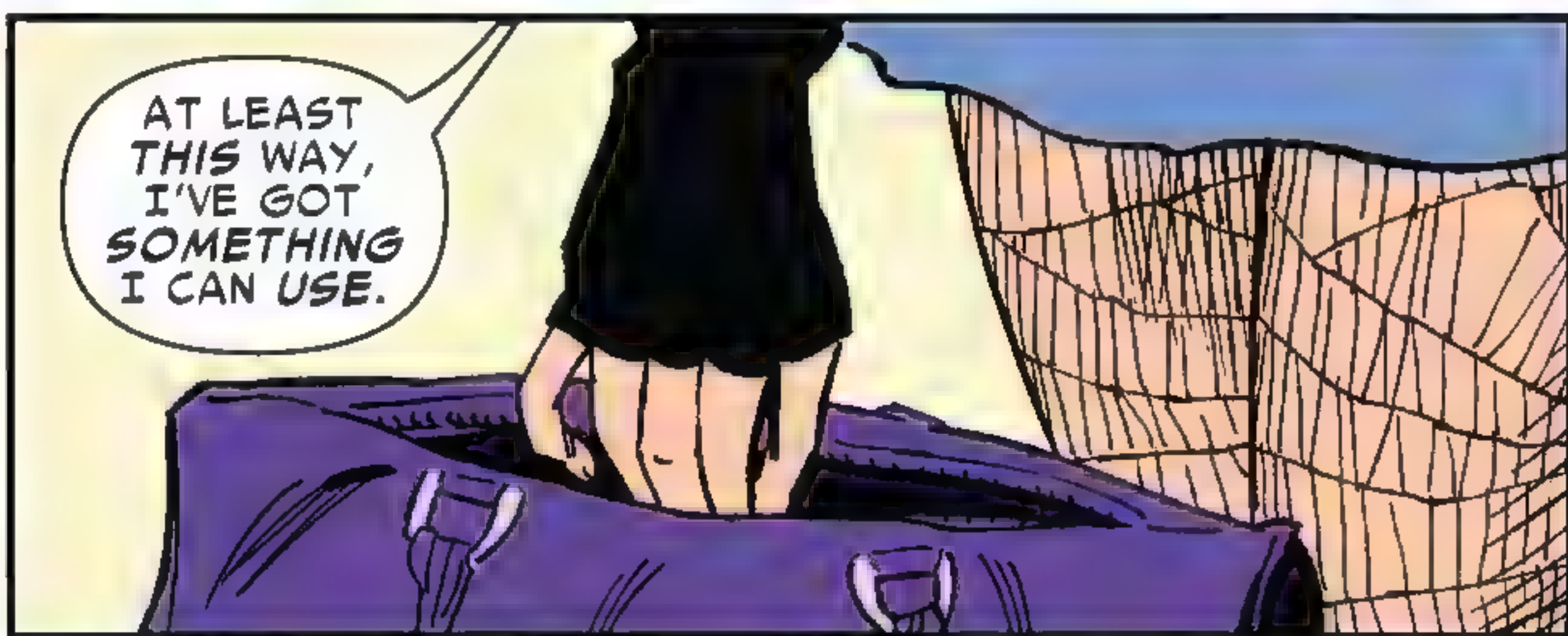
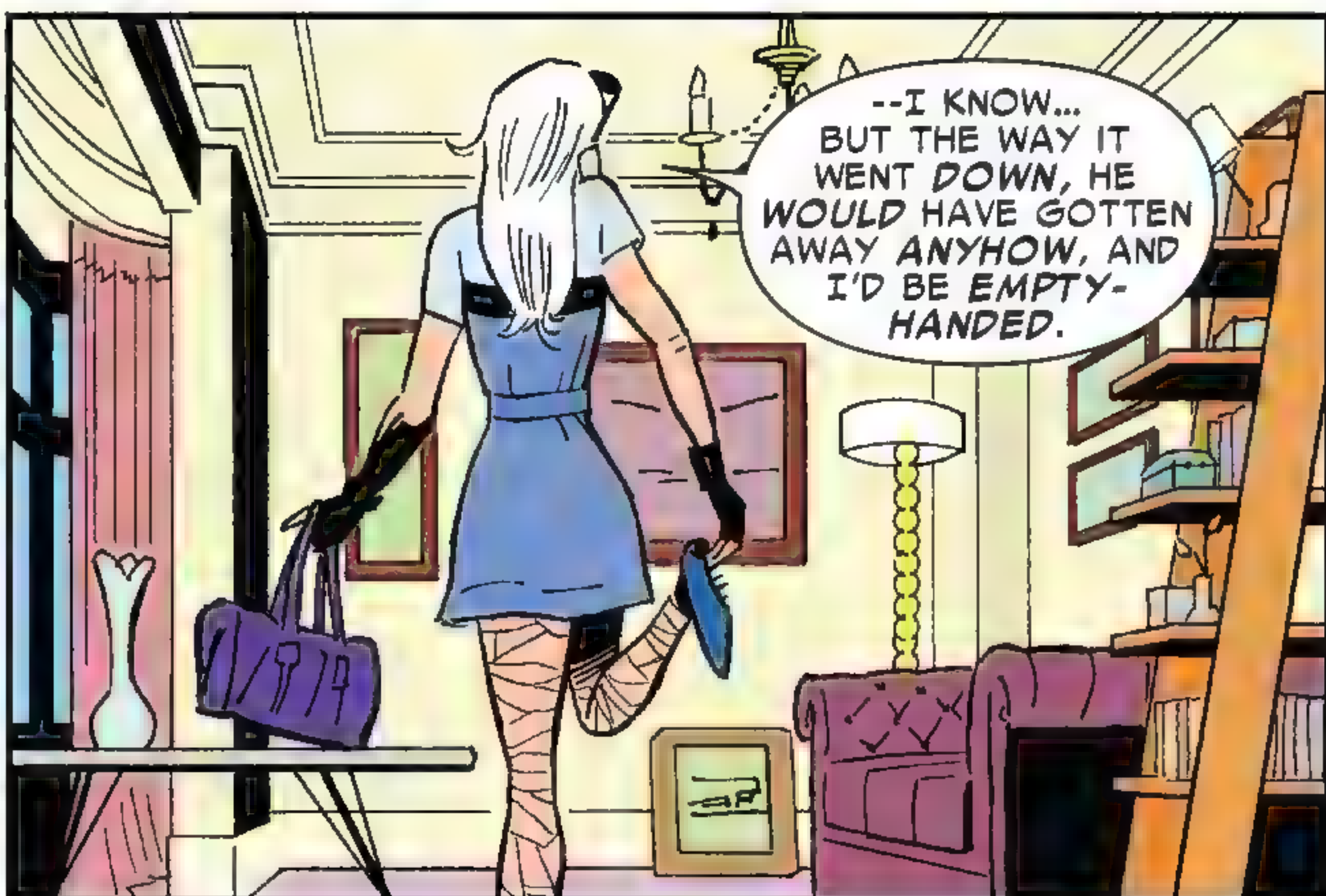
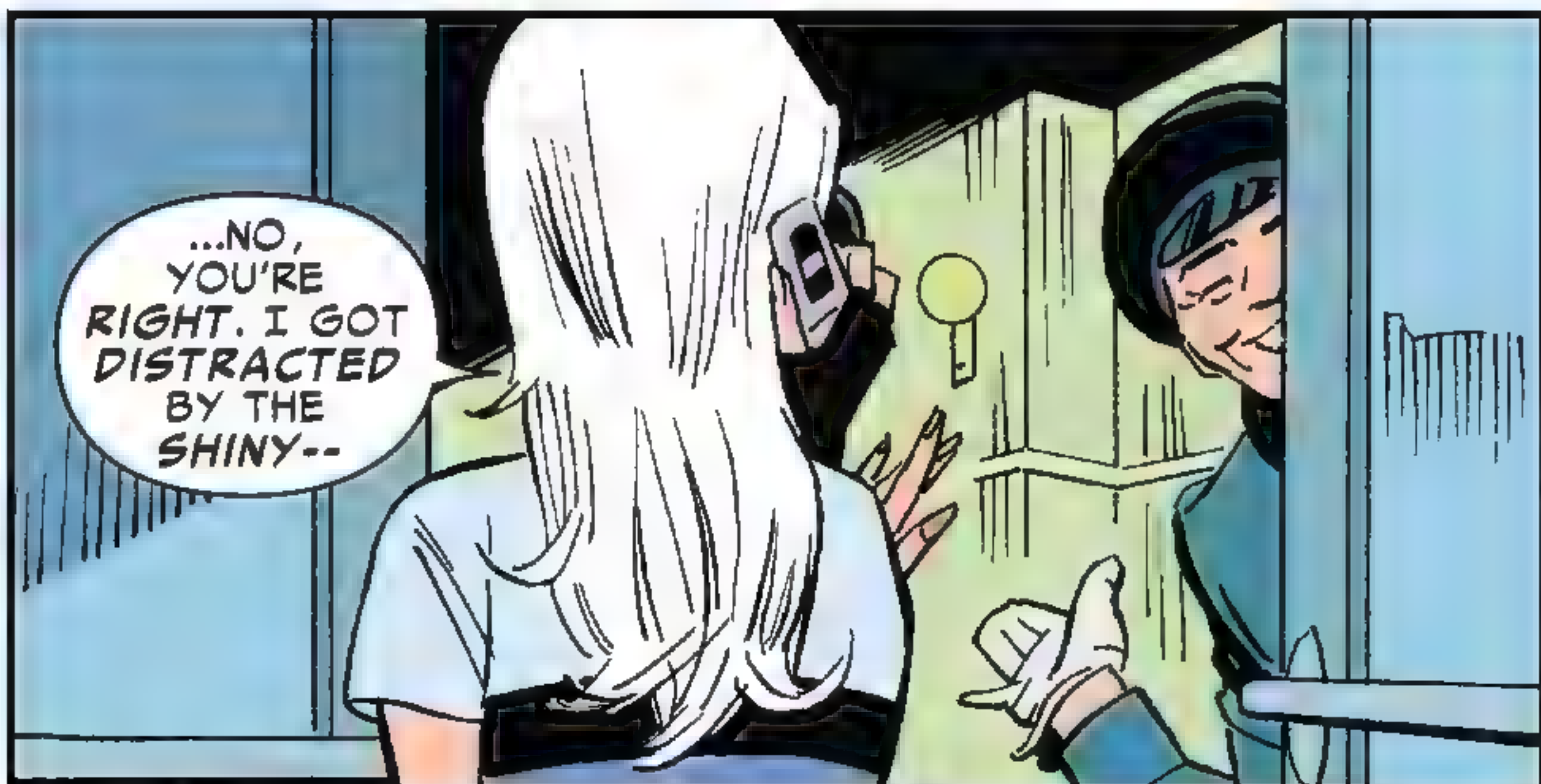
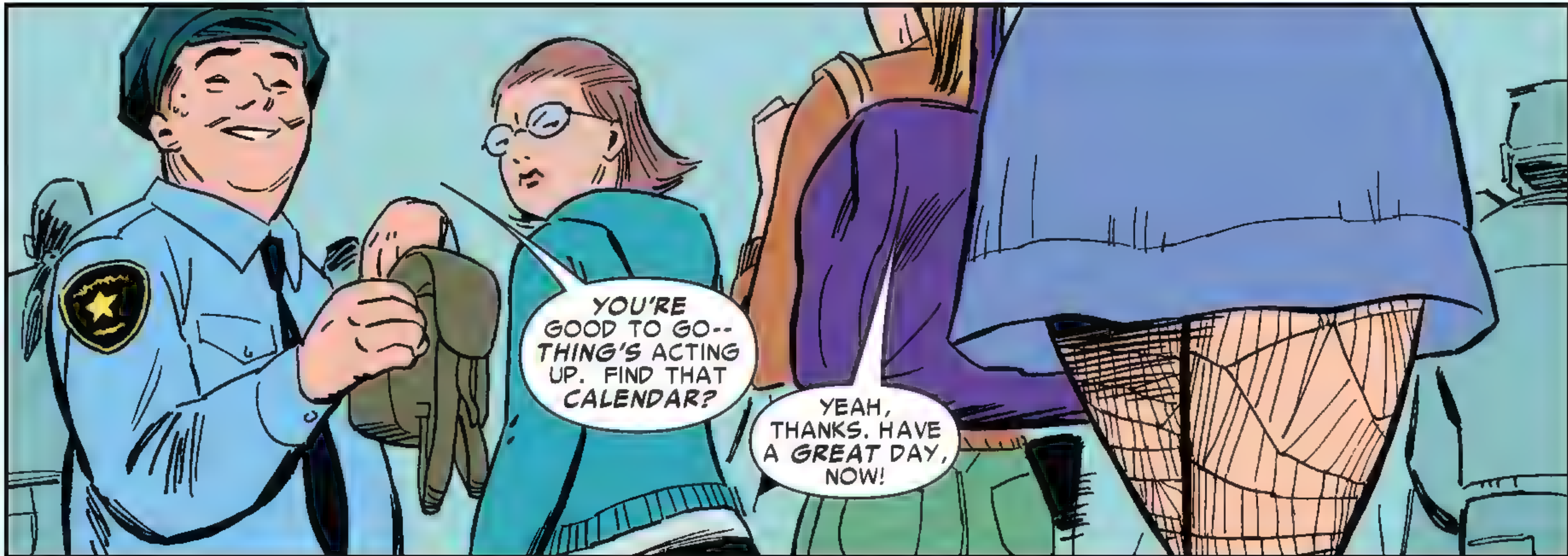
LOOK, I'M SORRY. THIS IS STUPID. I JUST THOUGHT...

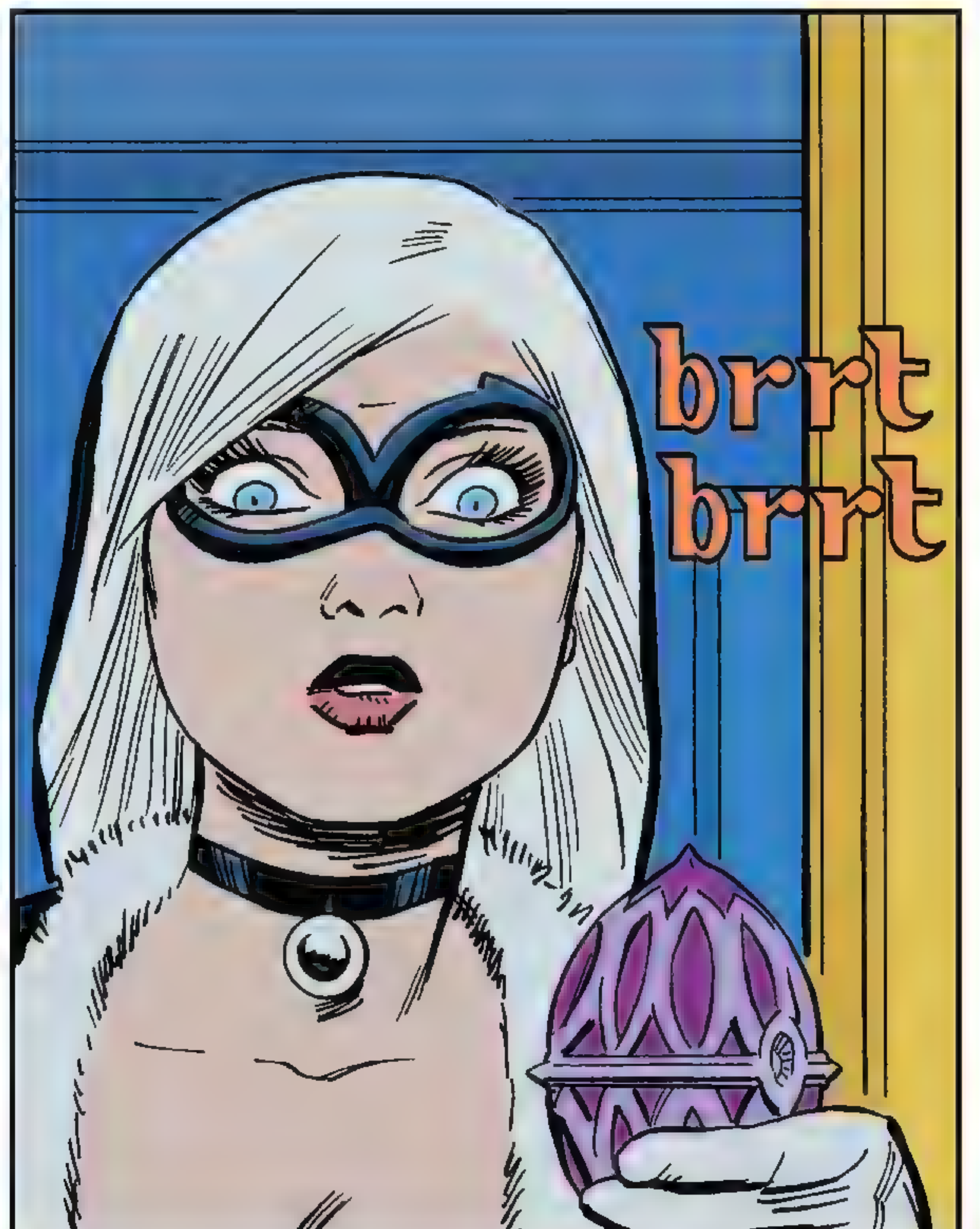
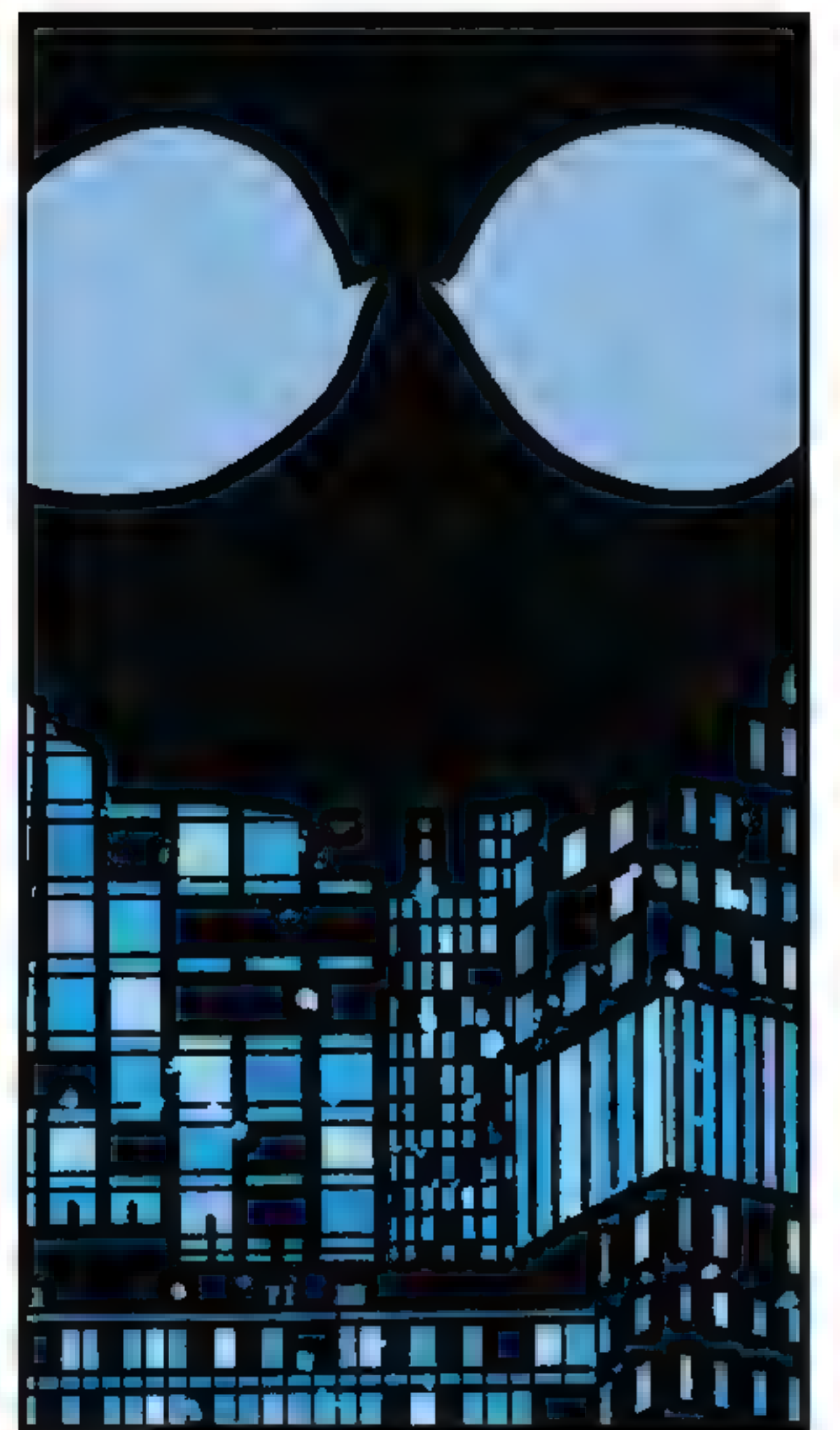
...I'D WORK WITH SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO HURT YOU. NICE.

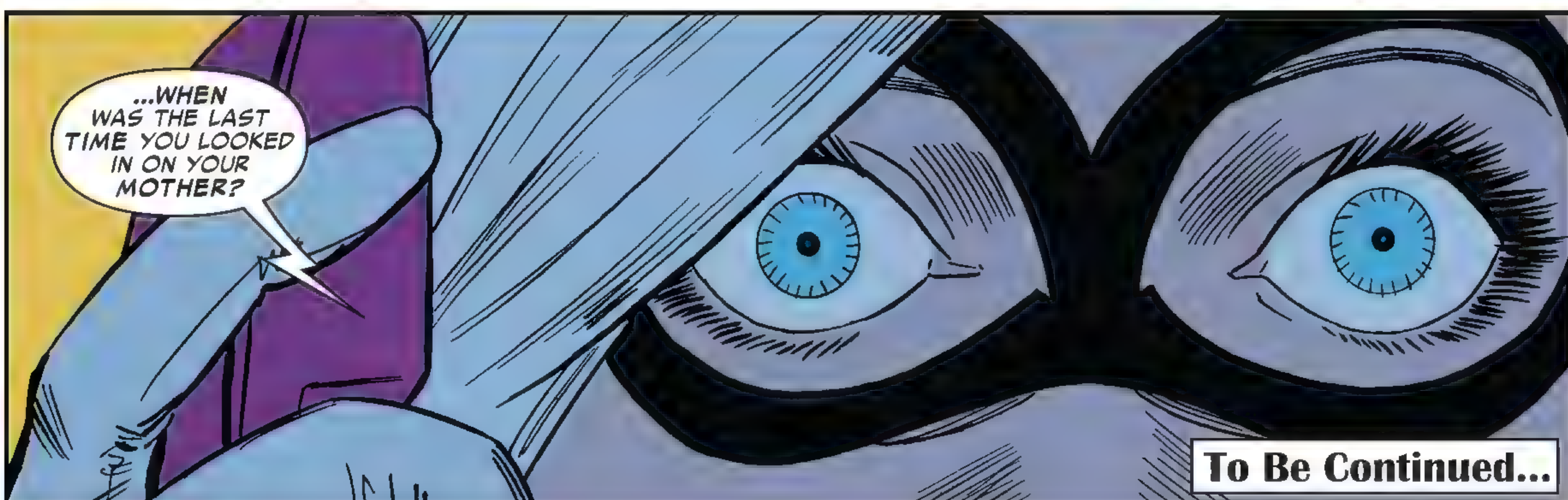
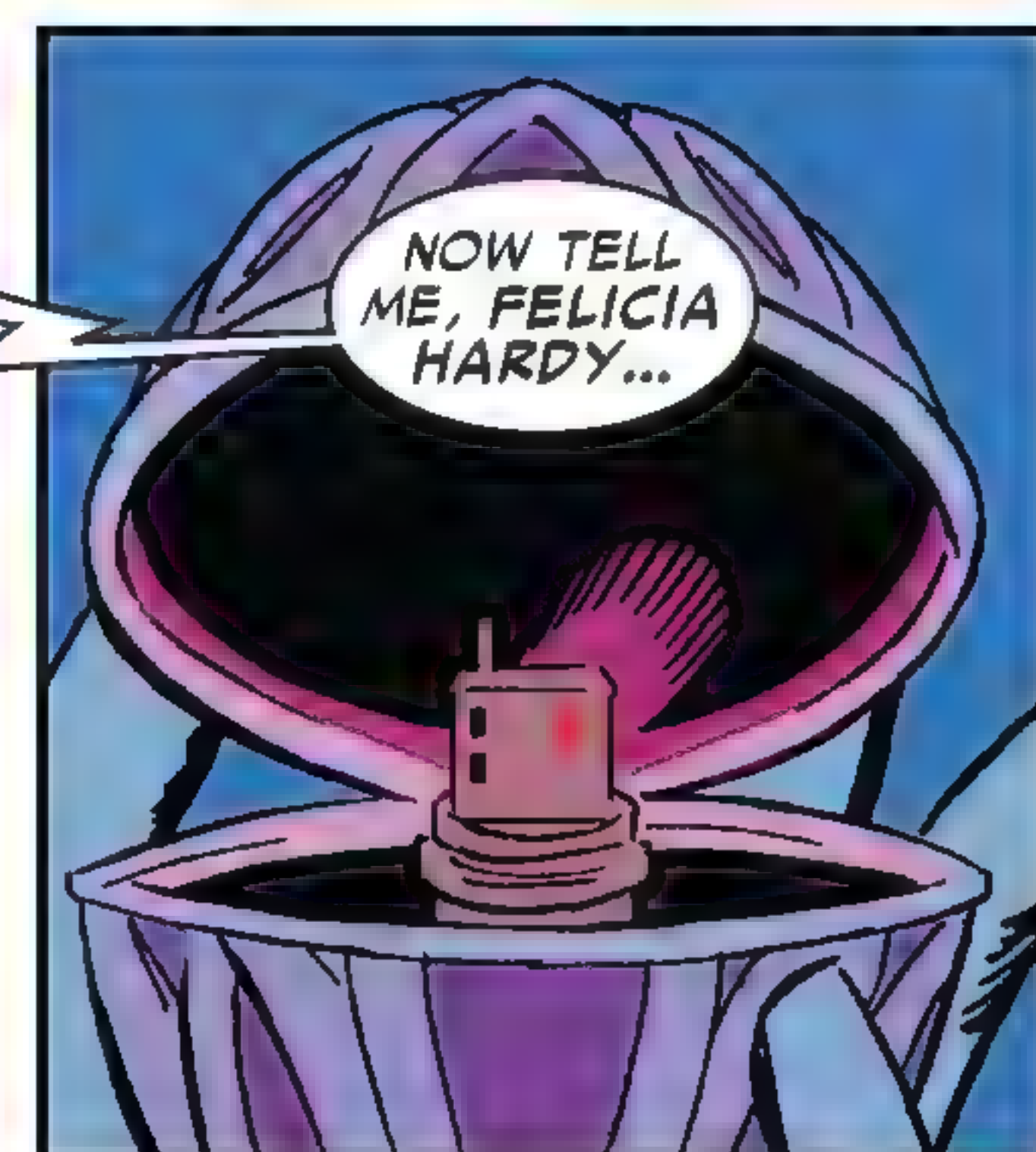
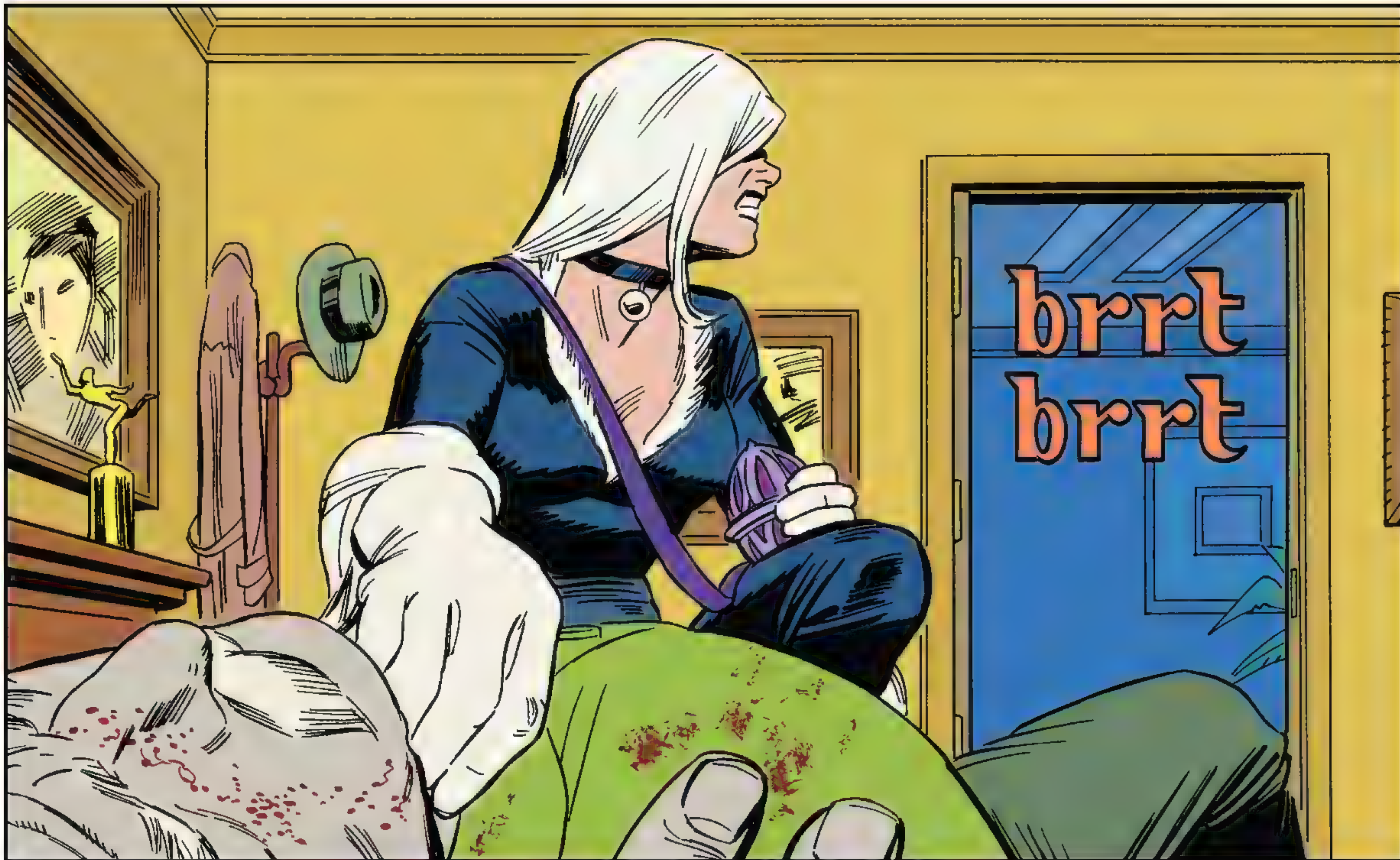


STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM ME. THIS THING WE HAD...?

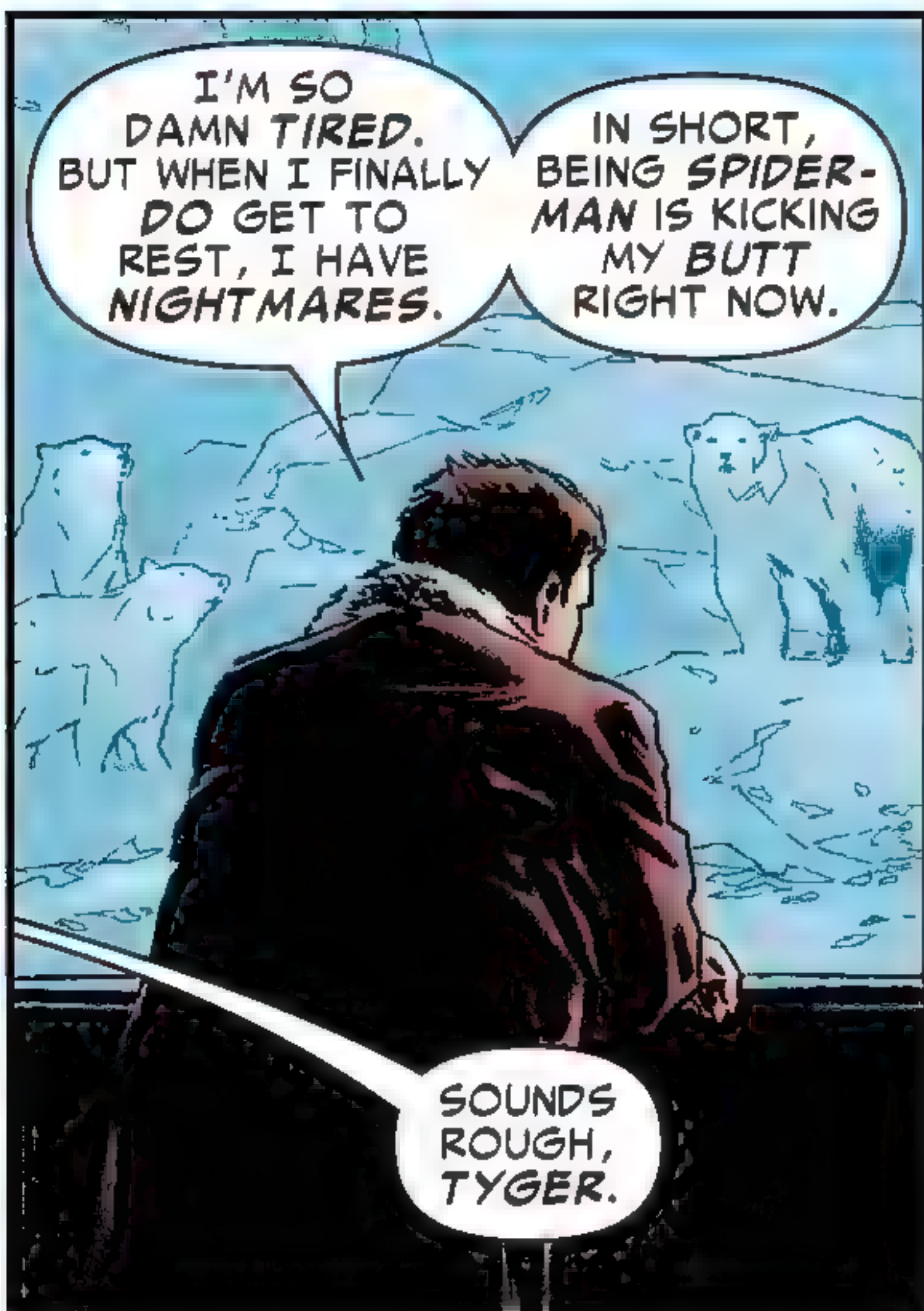
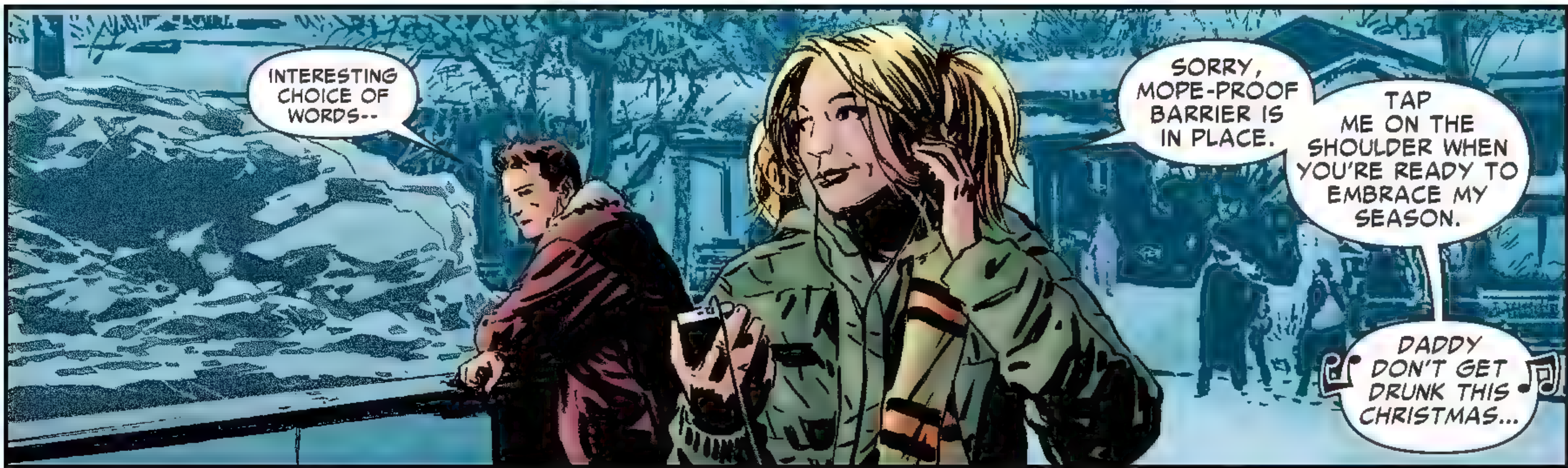
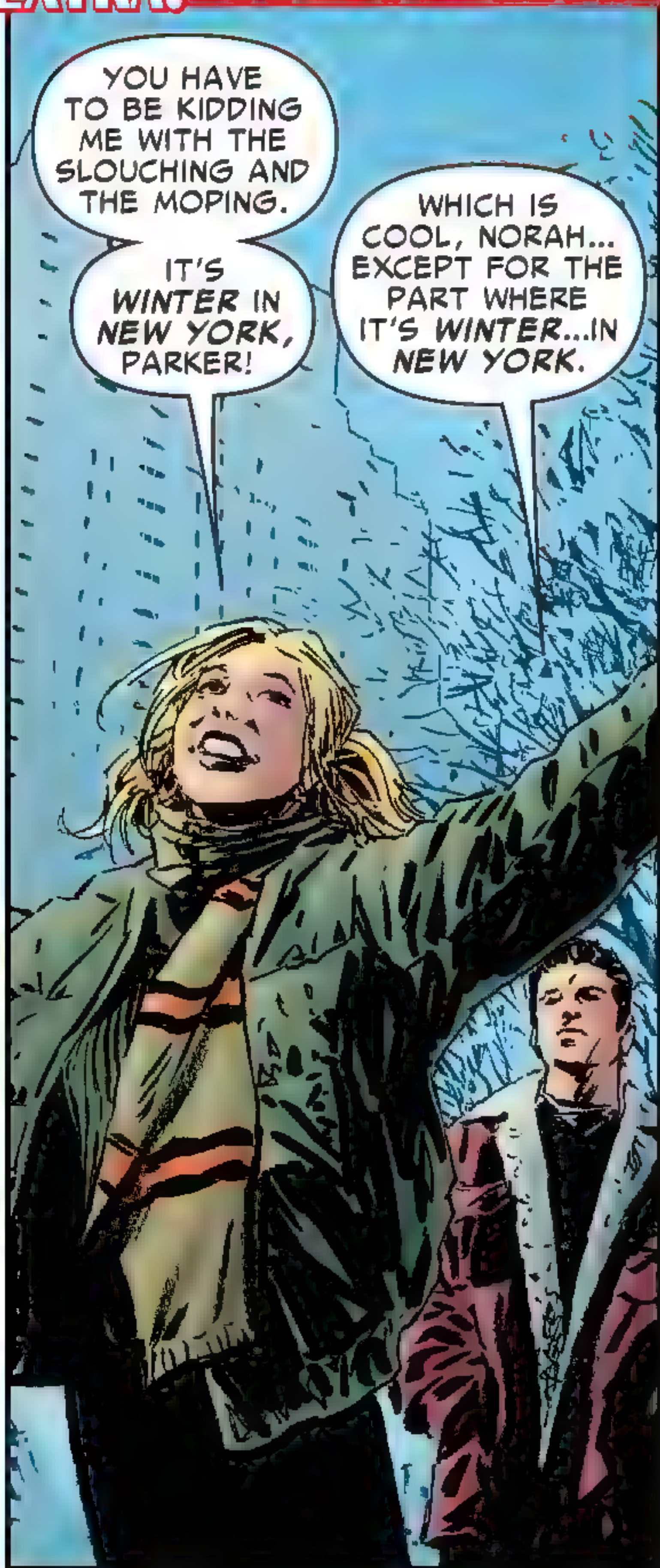








To Be Continued...







IT HAS NOT
BEEN A TEST...

IT'S BEEN A
GAUNTLET ENGINEERED
TO WEAKEN YOU...



A GENTLE NUDGE
TO PUT YOU IN THE
WRONG PLACE...



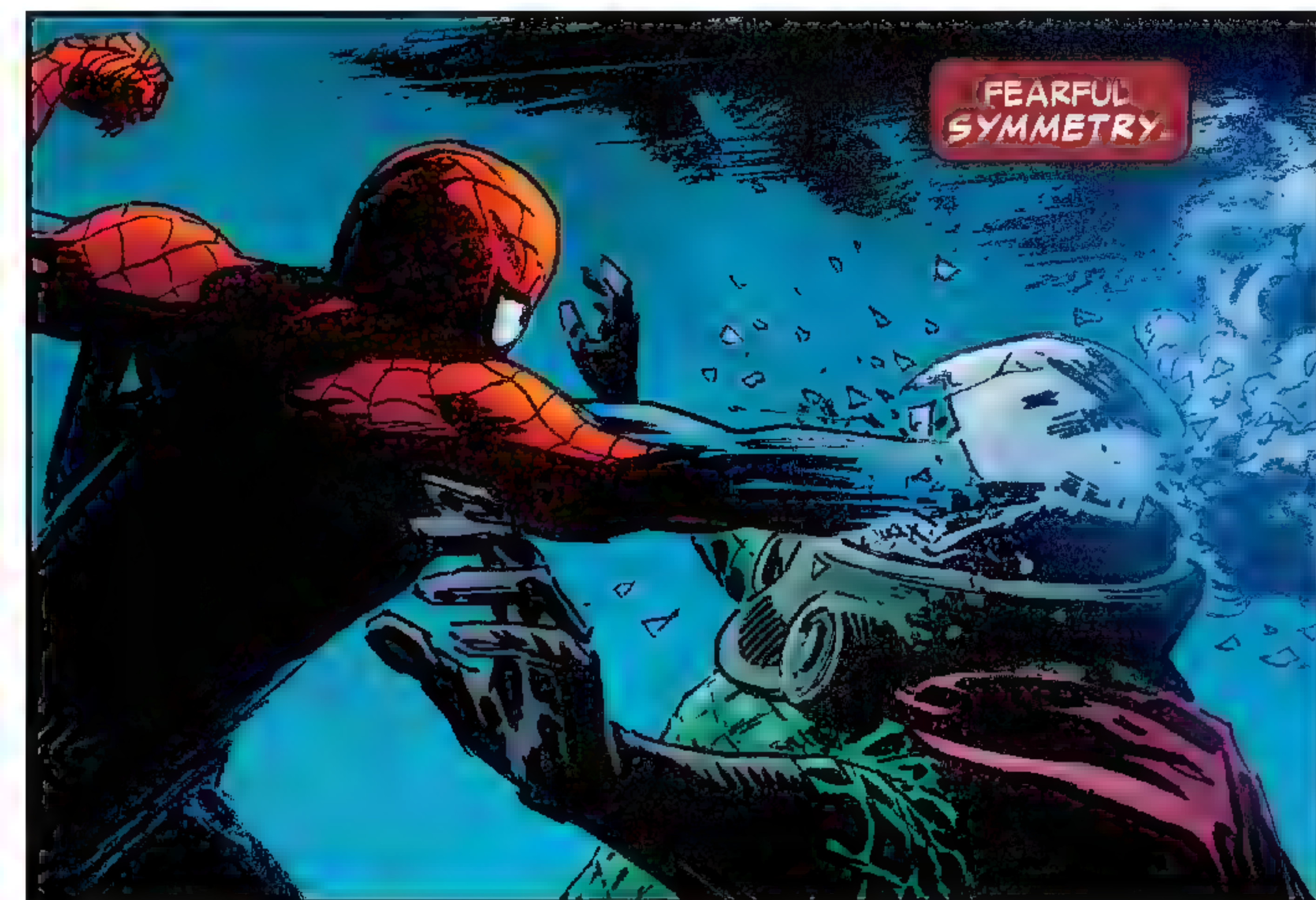
...AT THE WORST
TIME...AGAIN...

AND AGAIN.



TO WEAKEN YOU...

NOT JUST
PHYSICALLY...



FEARFUL
SYMMETRY.



OH MY
GOD.

PHYSICALLY
EMOTIONALLY
SPIRITUALLY...
YOU ARE UNDER
ATTACK.

THE HUNT
HAS BEGUN.

YOU HAVE
TO...

NO...NOT YET
DAMN IT!



SPIDER-MAN!

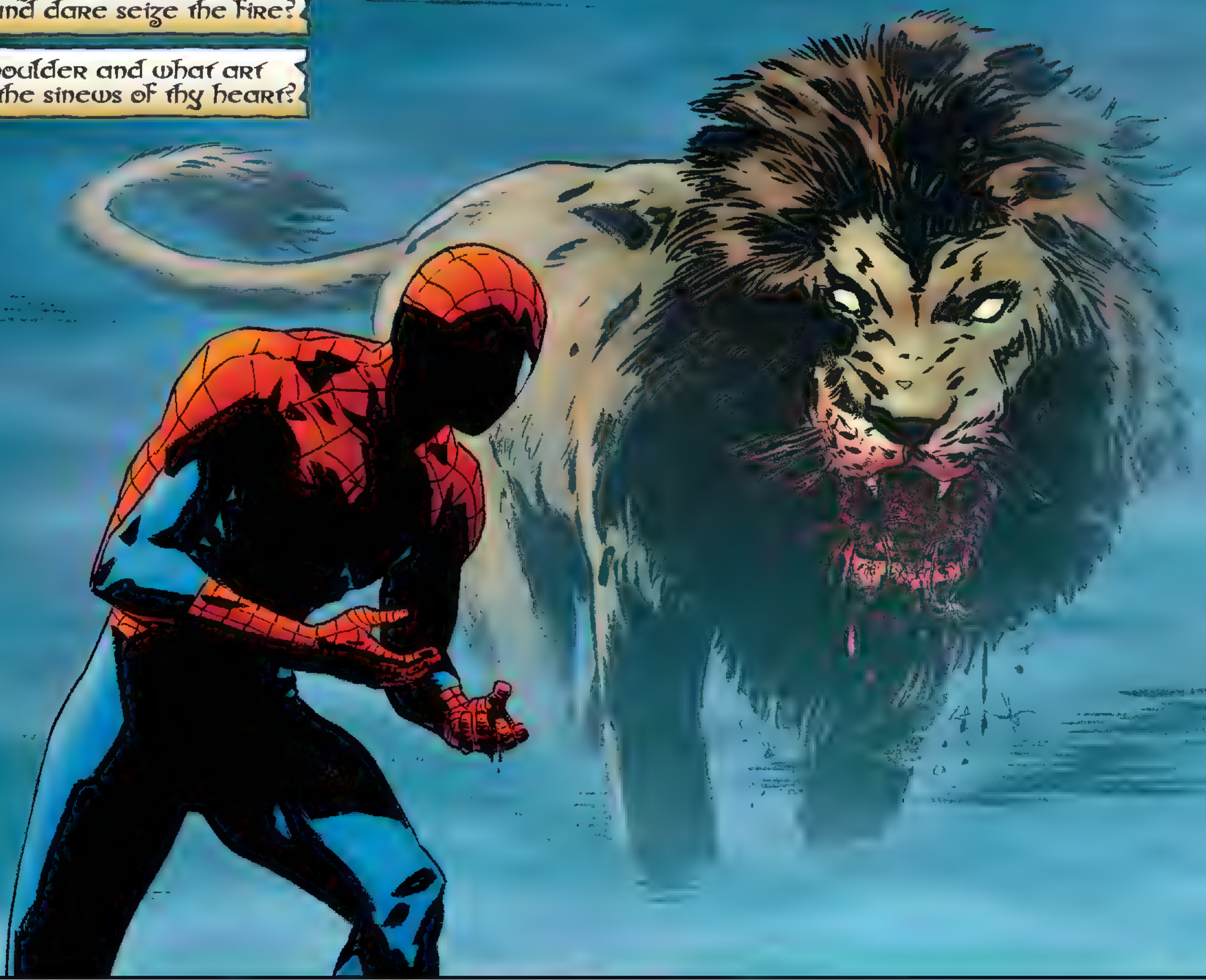
SPIDER-MAN!



In what distant
deeps or skies
burnt the fire
of thine eyes?

On what wings dare he aspire
what the hand dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder and what art
could twist the sinews of thy heart?

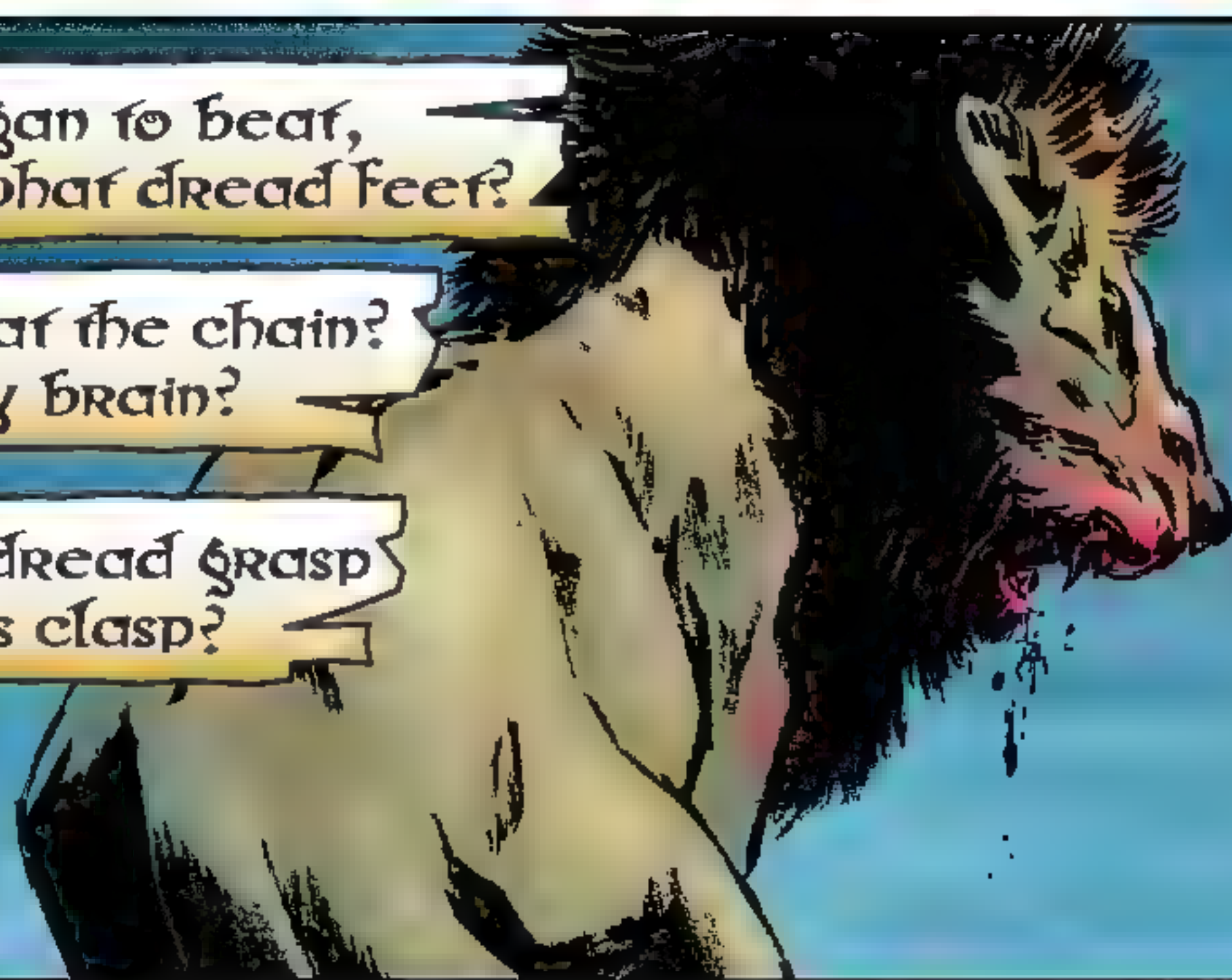


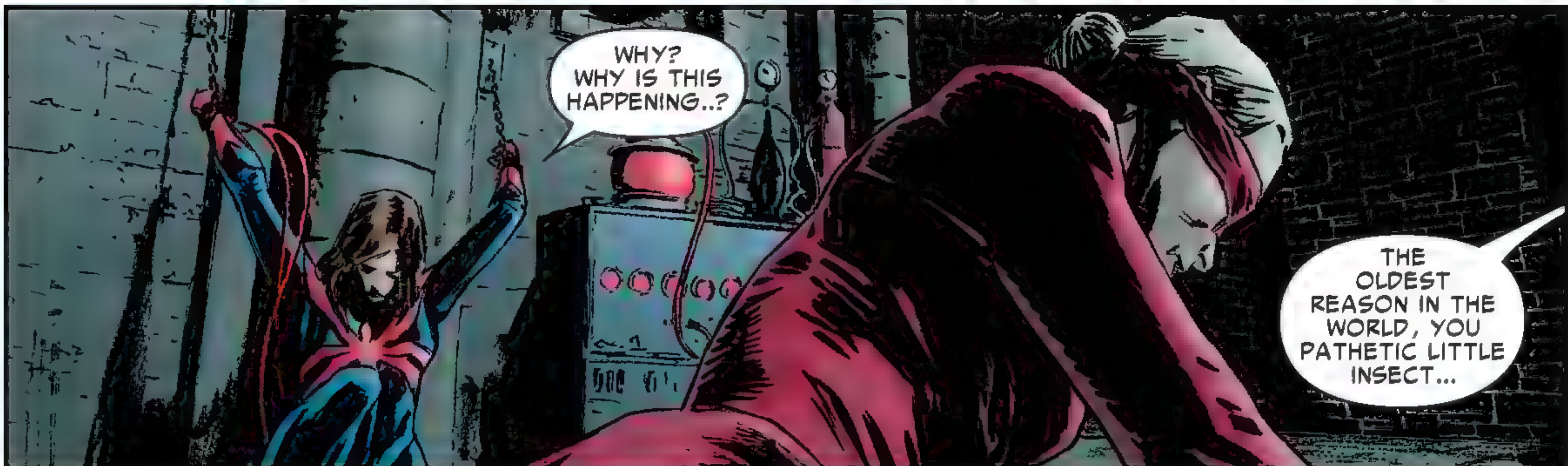
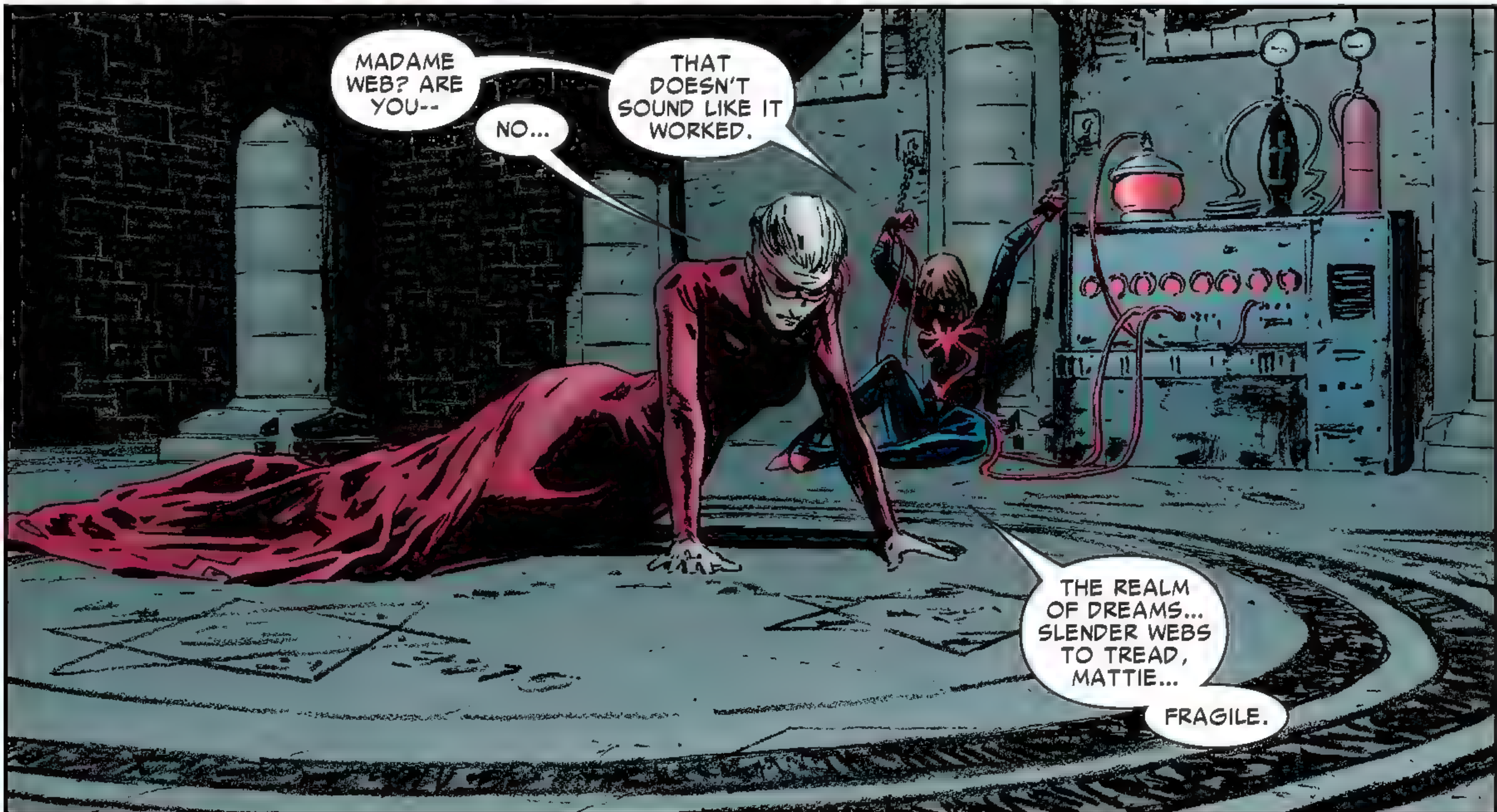
And when thy heart began to beat,
what dread hand and what dread feet?

What the hammer? What the chain?
in what furnace was thy brain?

What the anvil? What dread grasp
dare its deadly terrors clasp?

I'M
SORRY.







FAMILY.

YOU'VE BEEN OUT
DREAMWALKING...

...BAD
WEAVER.

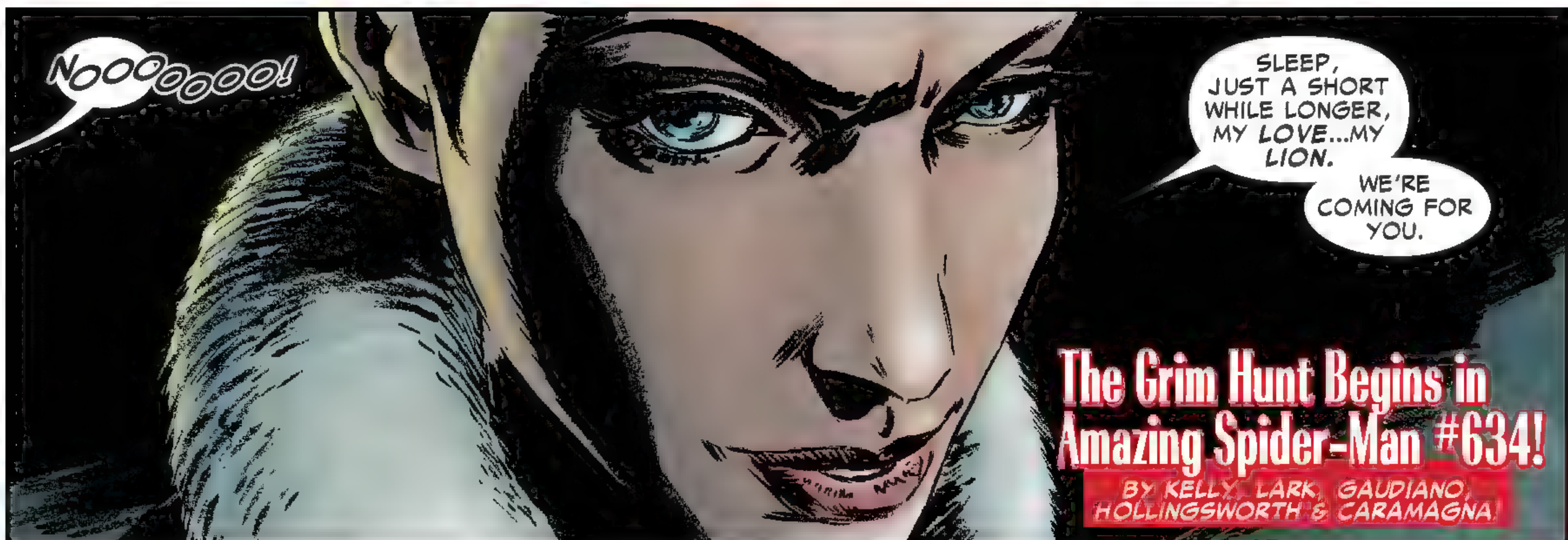


STAY
AWAY FROM
HER, YOU LITTLE
WITCH! STAY
AWAY!

MAMA
NEEDS BLOOD
TO FEEL BETTER,
MEAT.

DON'T
WORRY...YOU'LL
GET TO PLAY
TOO.

NO!



Noooooo!

SLEEP,
JUST A SHORT
WHILE LONGER,
MY LOVE...MY
LION.

WE'RE
COMING FOR
YOU.

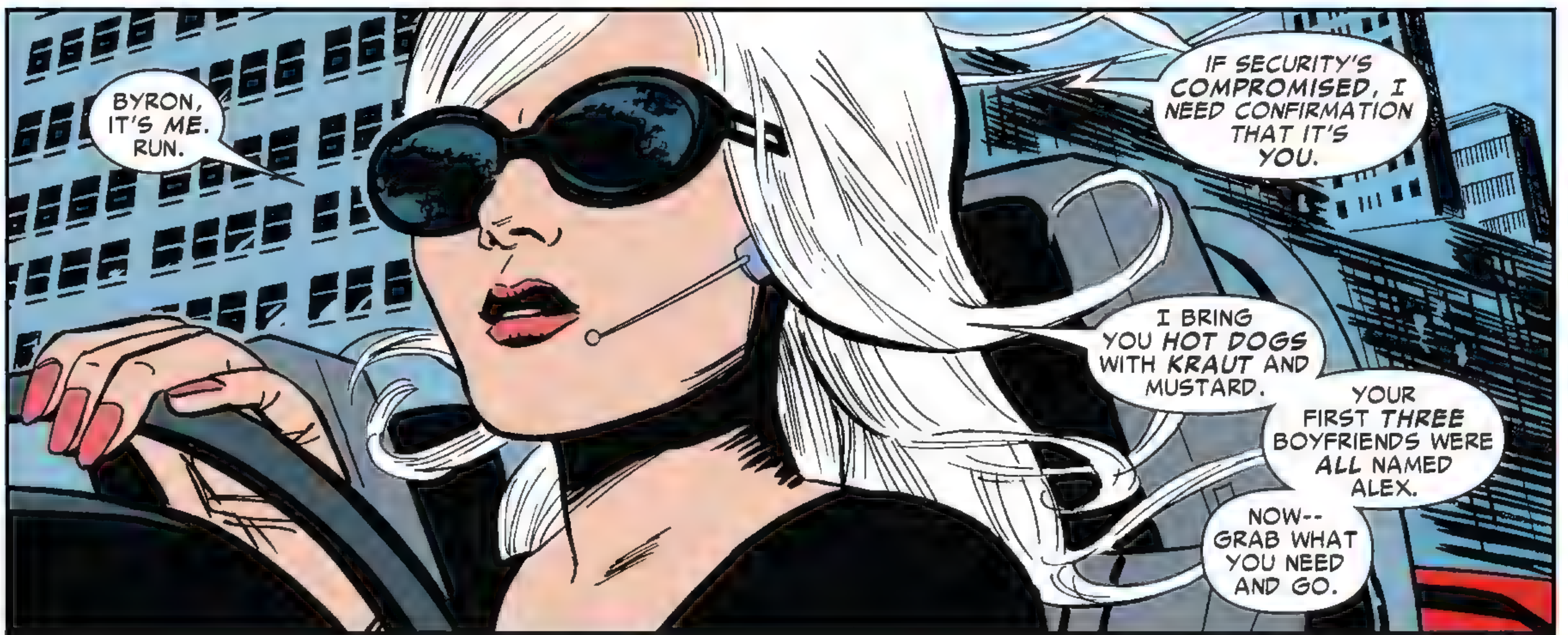
**The Grim Hunt Begins in
Amazing Spider-Man #634!**

BY KELLY LARK, GAUDIANO,
HOLLINGSWORTH & CARAMAGNA!

BLACK CAT

**VAN METER
PULIDO
HOLLINGSWORTH**





TOM BRENNAN
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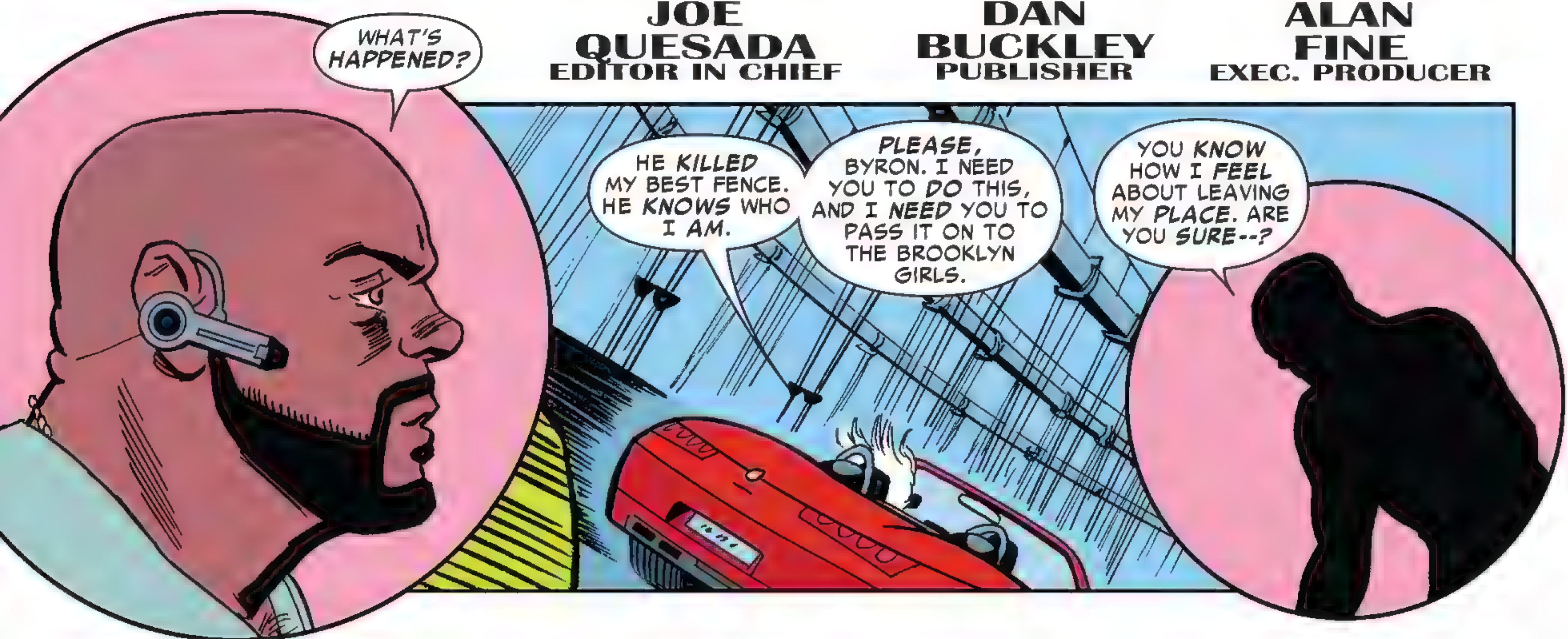
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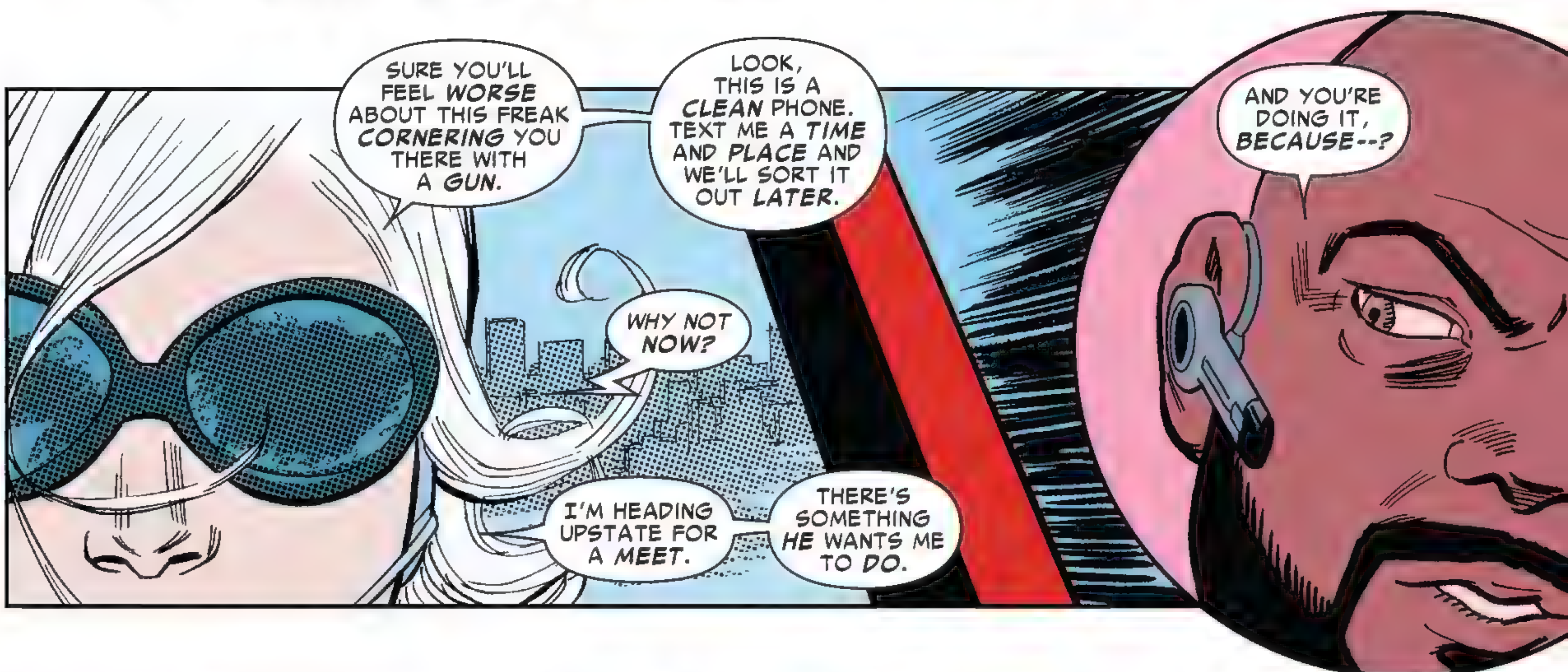
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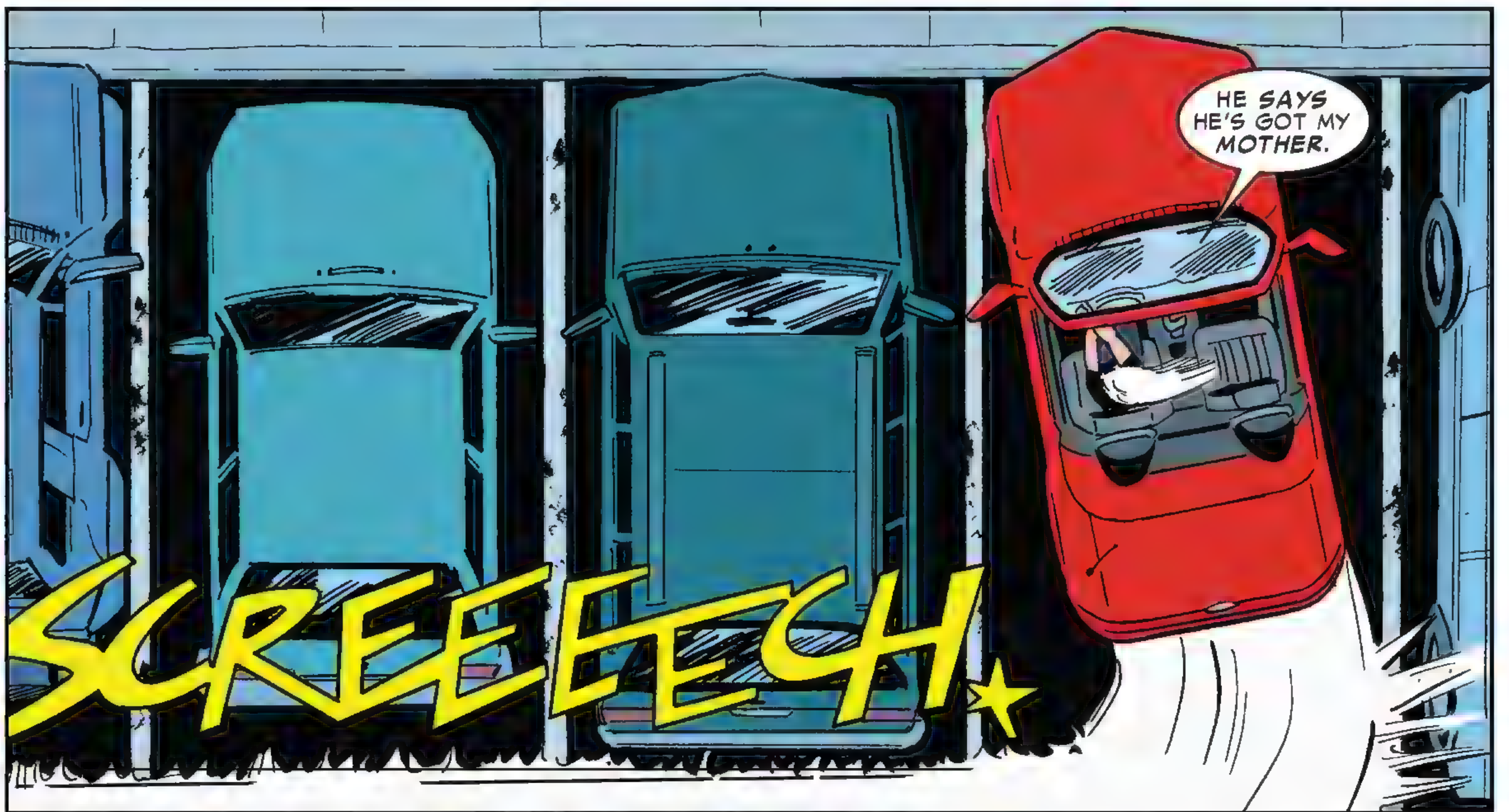
VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA
LETTERS



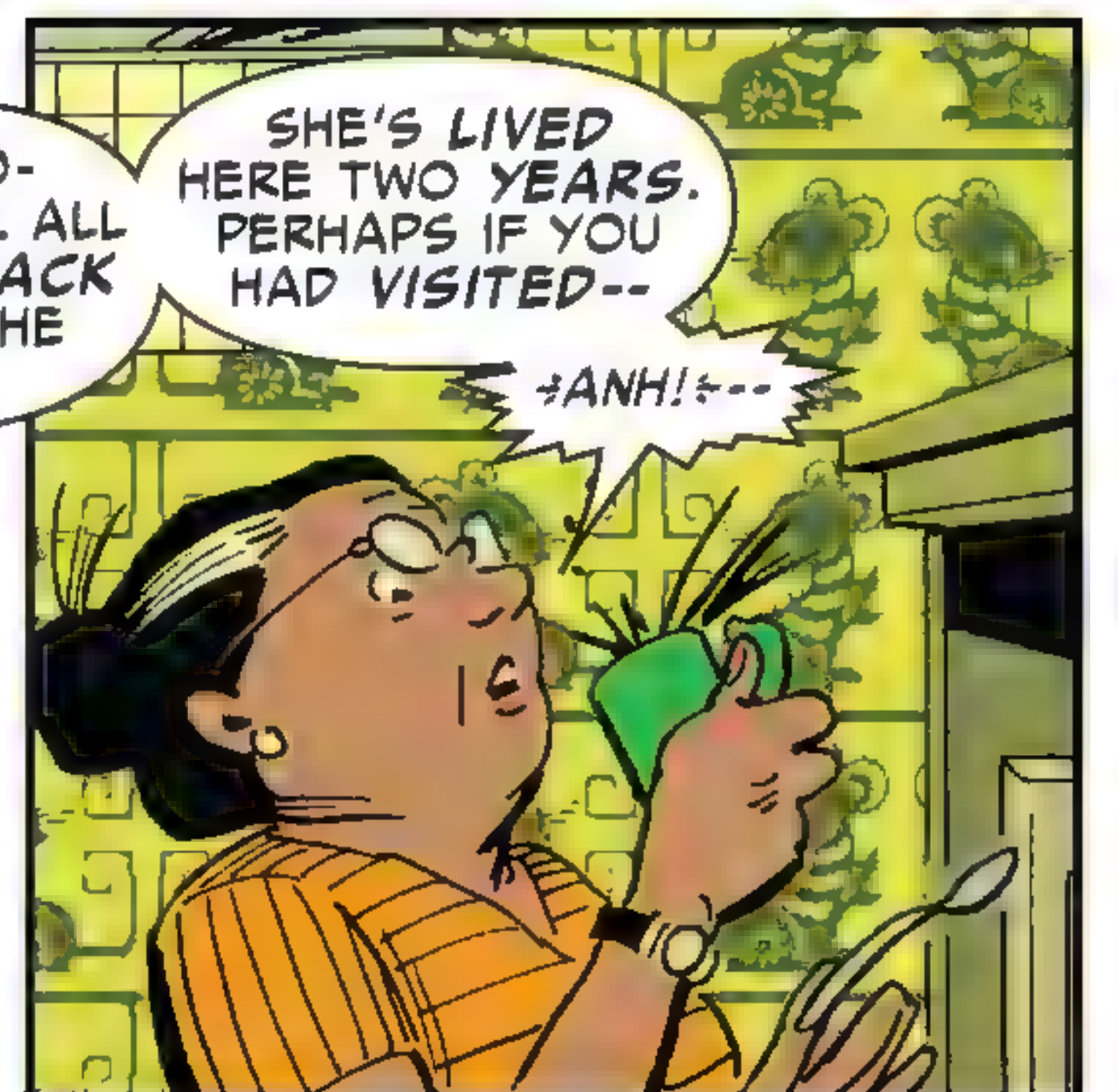
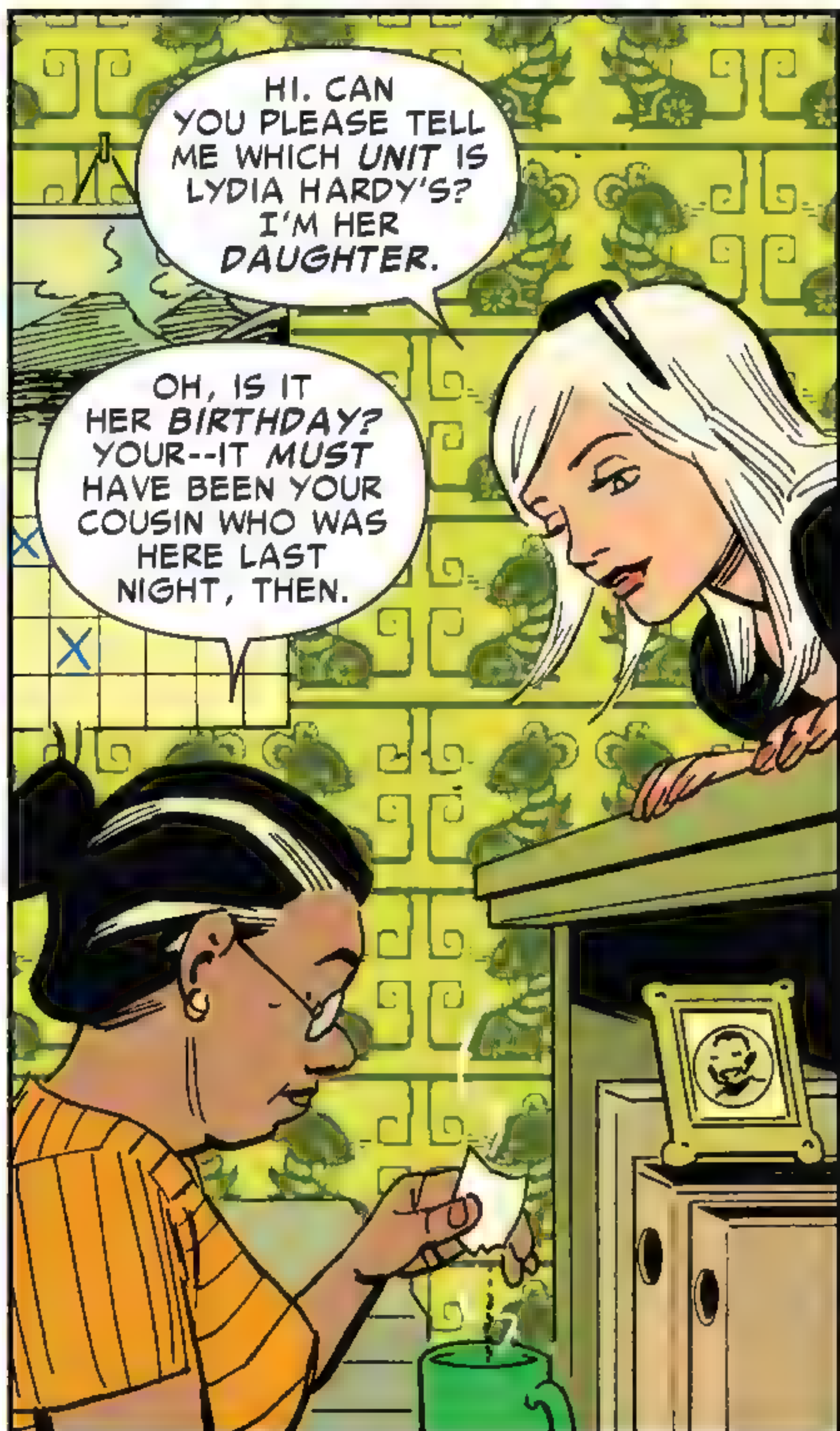
JEN VAN METER
WRITER

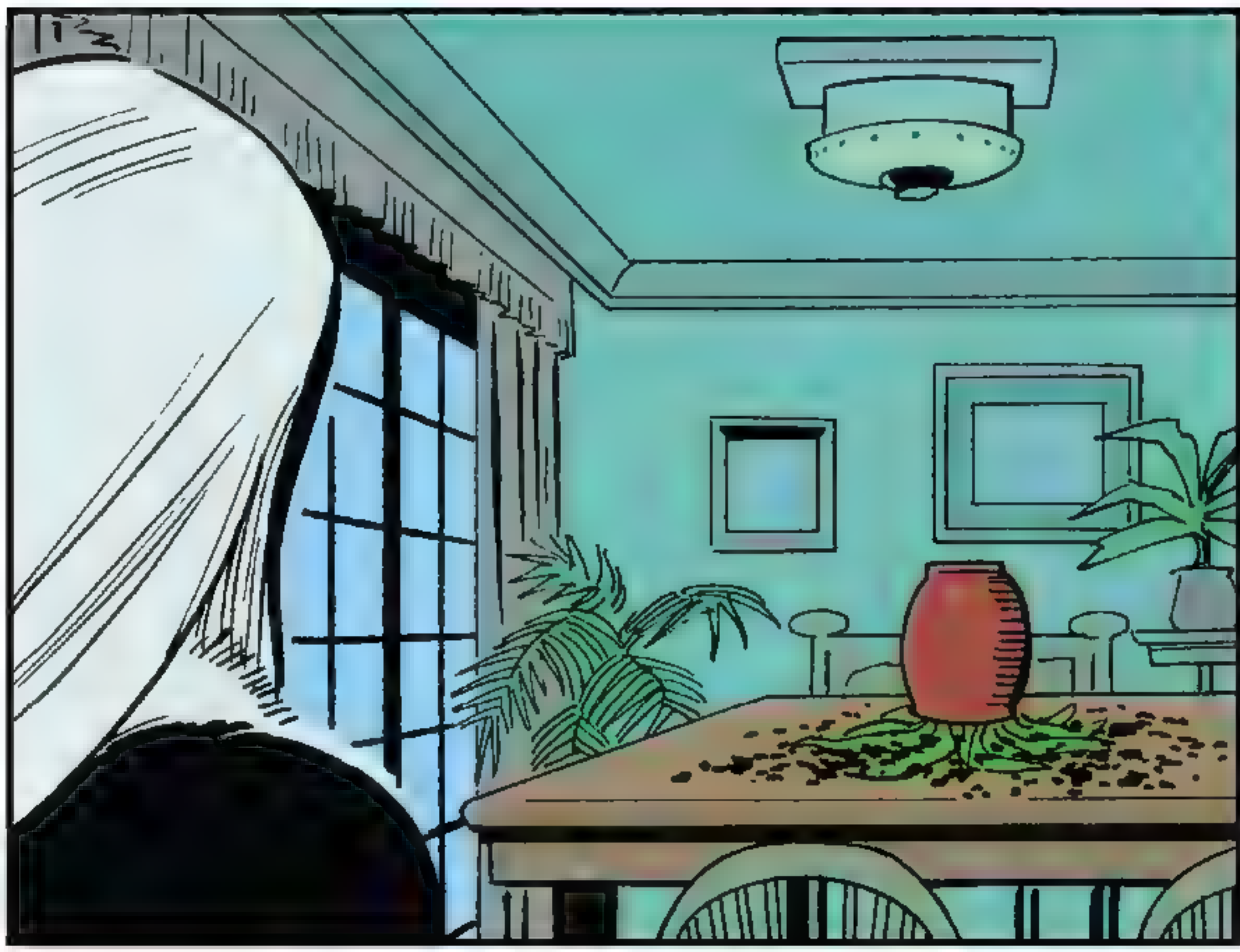
JAVIER PULIDO
ARTIST, pg. 1-17

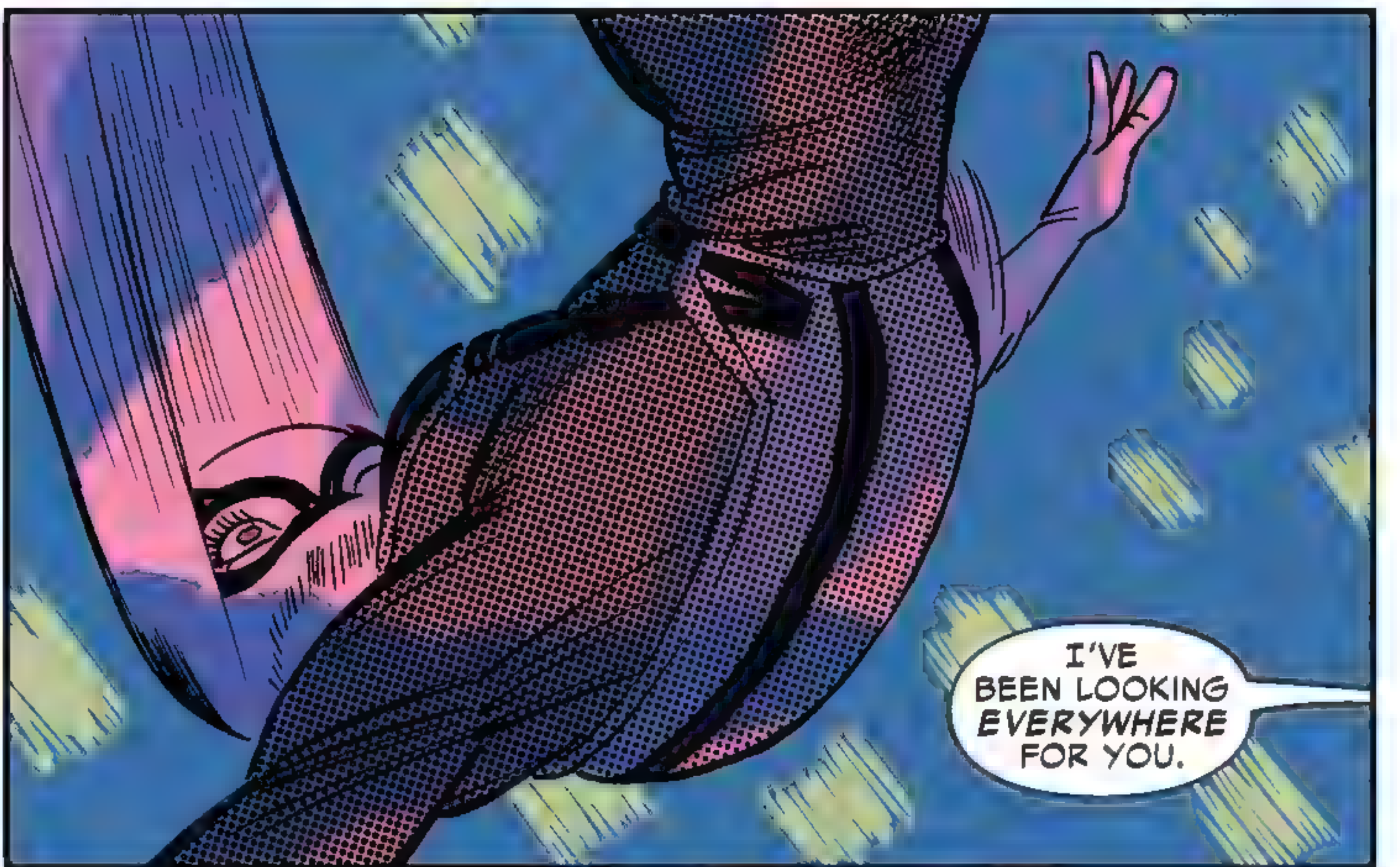
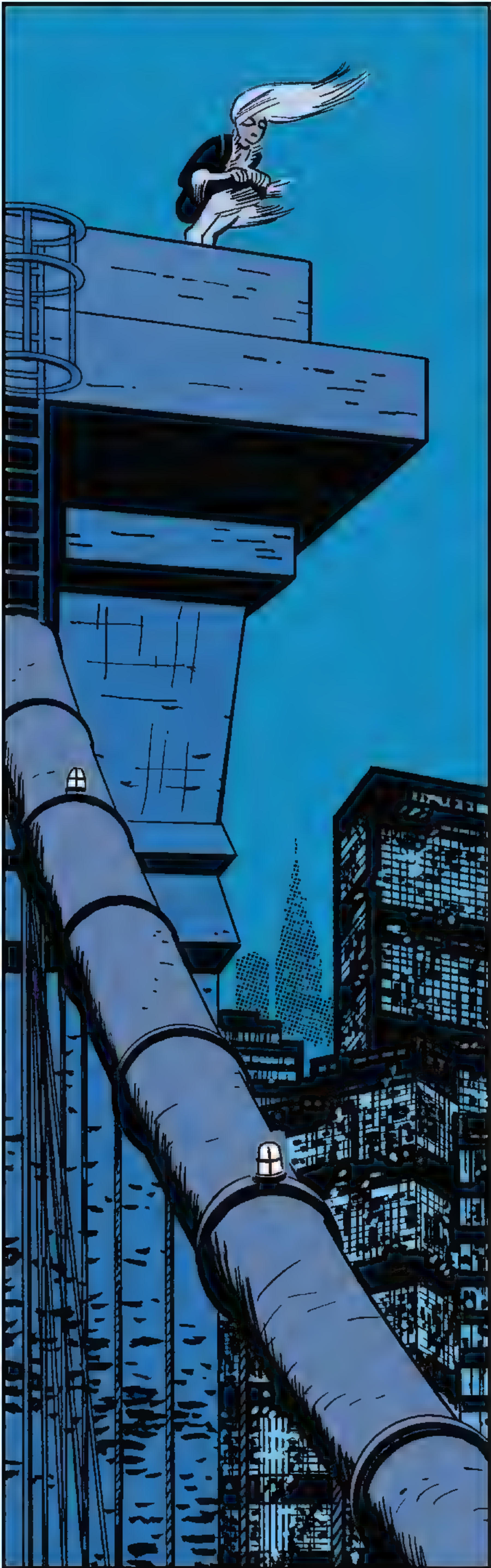
JAVIER RODRIGUEZ
ARTIST, pg. 18-23



Black Cat: The Trophy Hunters Part Two







I'VE
BEEN LOOKING
EVERYWHERE
FOR YOU.



YEAH?
WELL, THERE
ARE OVER FOUR
MILLION *OTHER*
WOMEN IN
THIS CITY.

I'M *SURE*
ONE OF THEM
HAS A KINK
FOR WEBS.

I'M NOT
JOKING
AROUND
HERE--

SURE
YOU ARE.
THAT'S WHAT
YOU DO.



ERNST
FIELDING--

WAS
A *FRIEND*
OF MINE. AND
SOMEONE
KILLED HIM.



SOMEONE
ELSE.

I
BELIEVE
YOU.

YIPPEE.
I'D HATE TO
HAVE YOU THINK
ME A KILLER
AND A LIAR.



WHY ARE
YOU *BEING* LIKE
THIS? WHY WON'T
YOU JUST STOP
AND TALK
TO ME?!

I WANT
YOU TO GO
AWAY AND I HAVE
SOMEWHERE
TO BE.

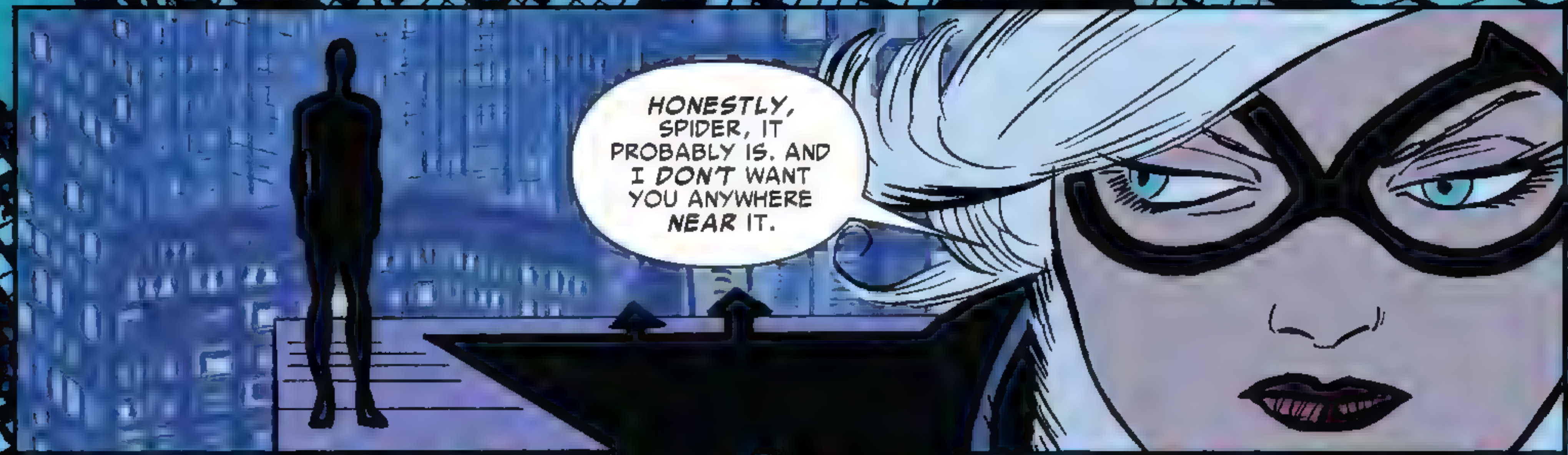
WOULD HAVE
THOUGHT
IT WAS
OBVIOUS.



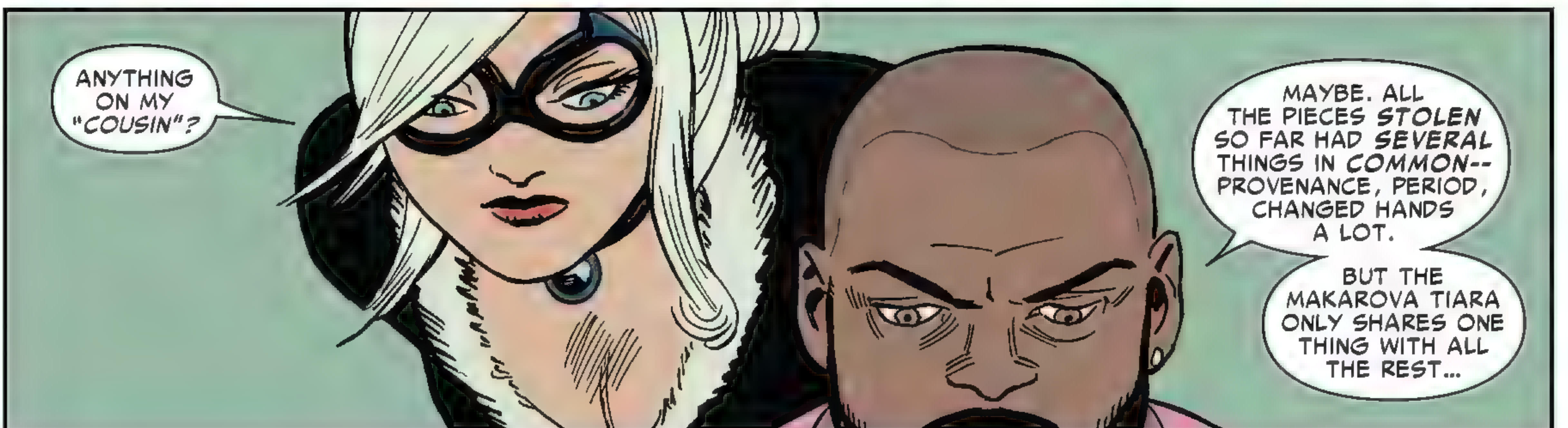
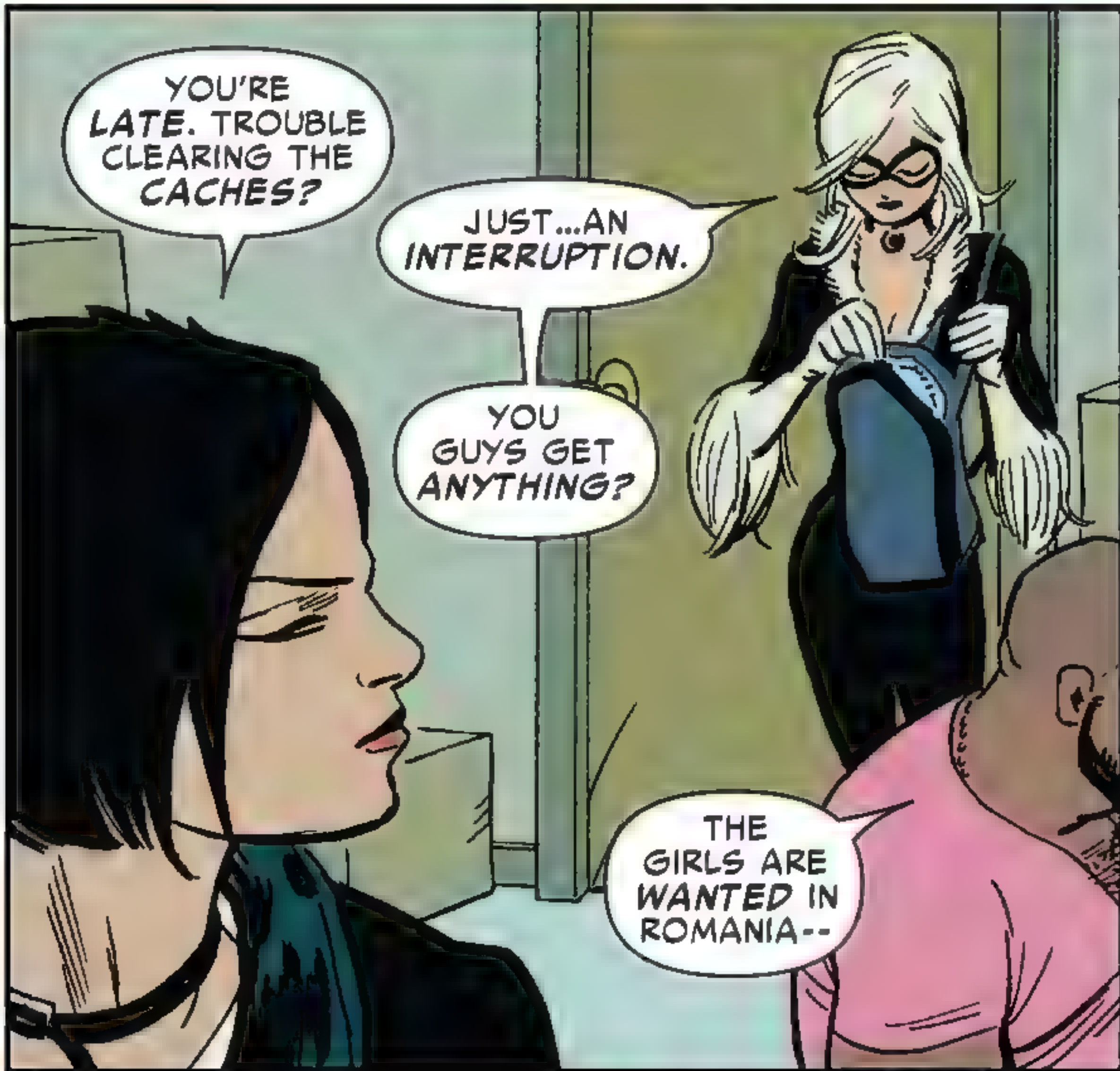
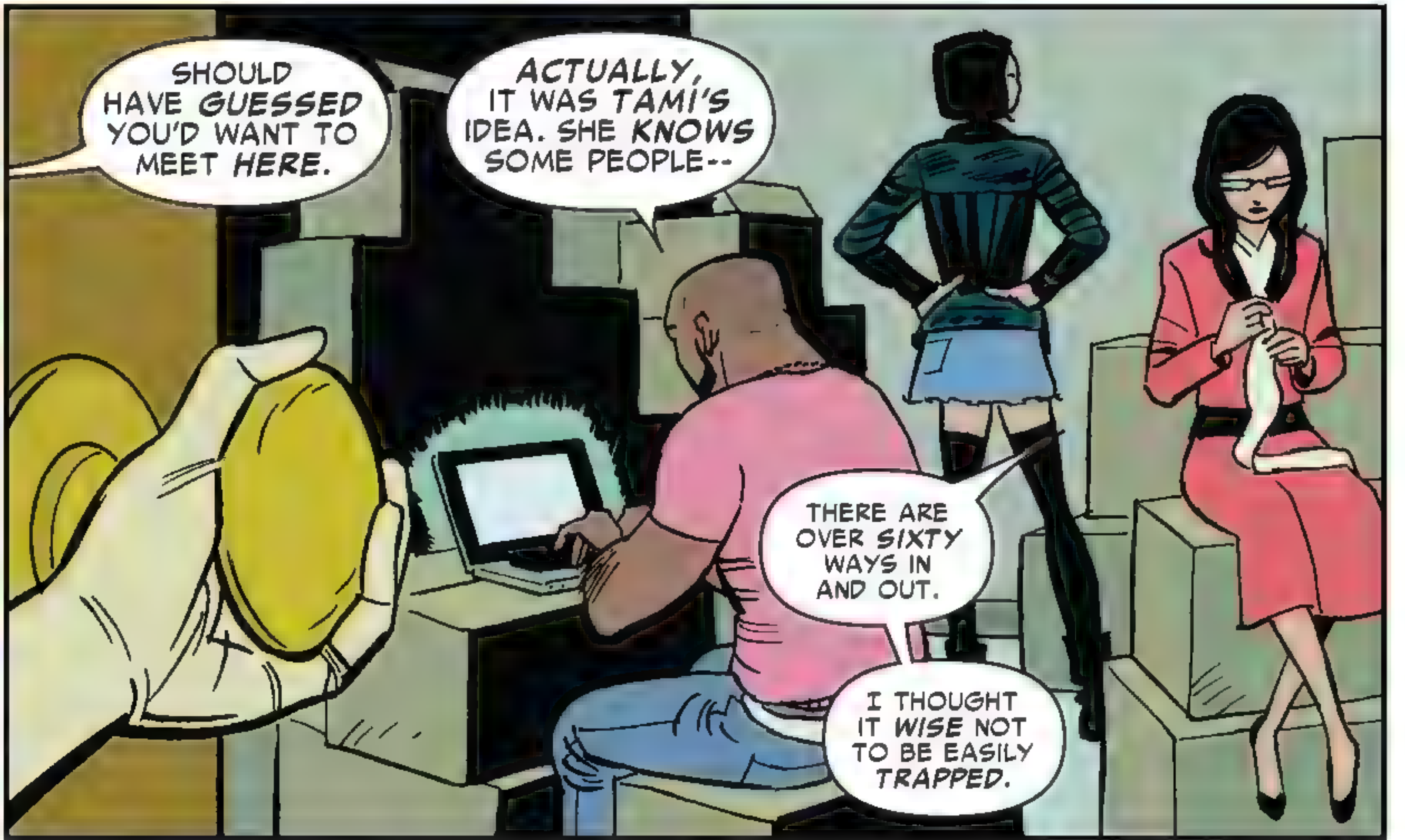
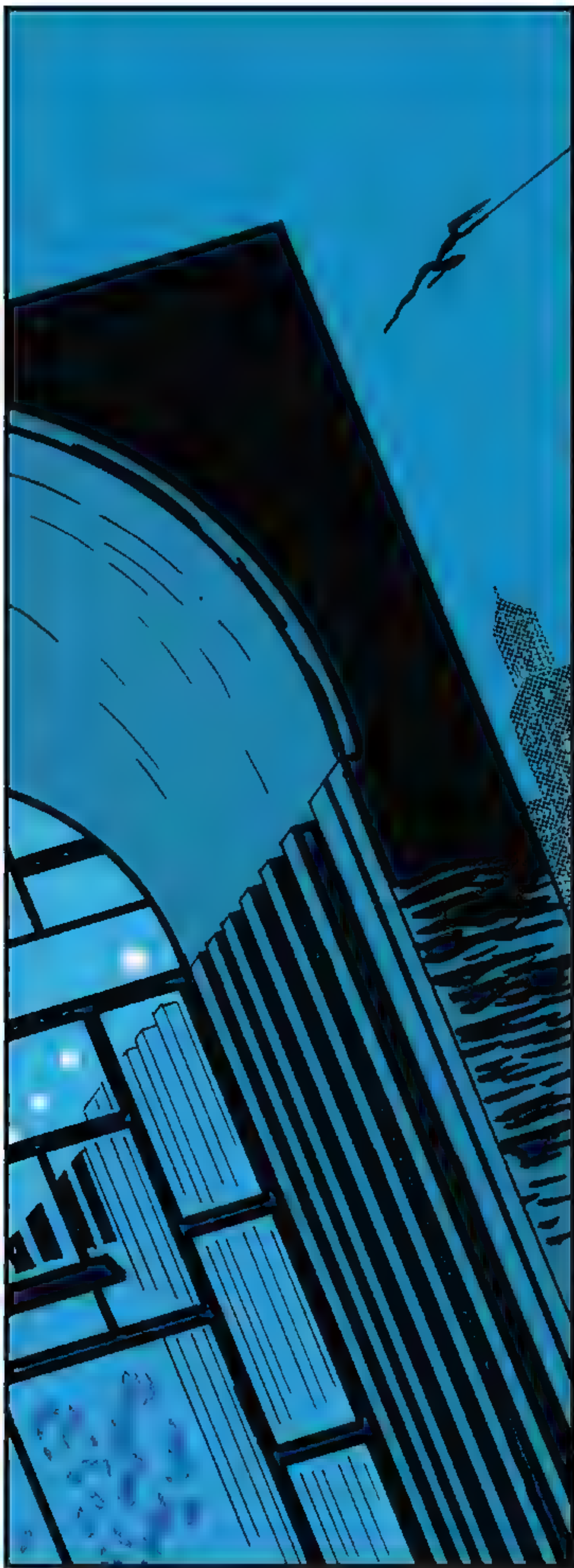
LOOK--I
KNOW YOU'RE
MIXED UP IN
SOMETHING MESSY
AND DANGEROUS,
SOMETHING TO DO
WITH THAT RUSSIAN
ART--

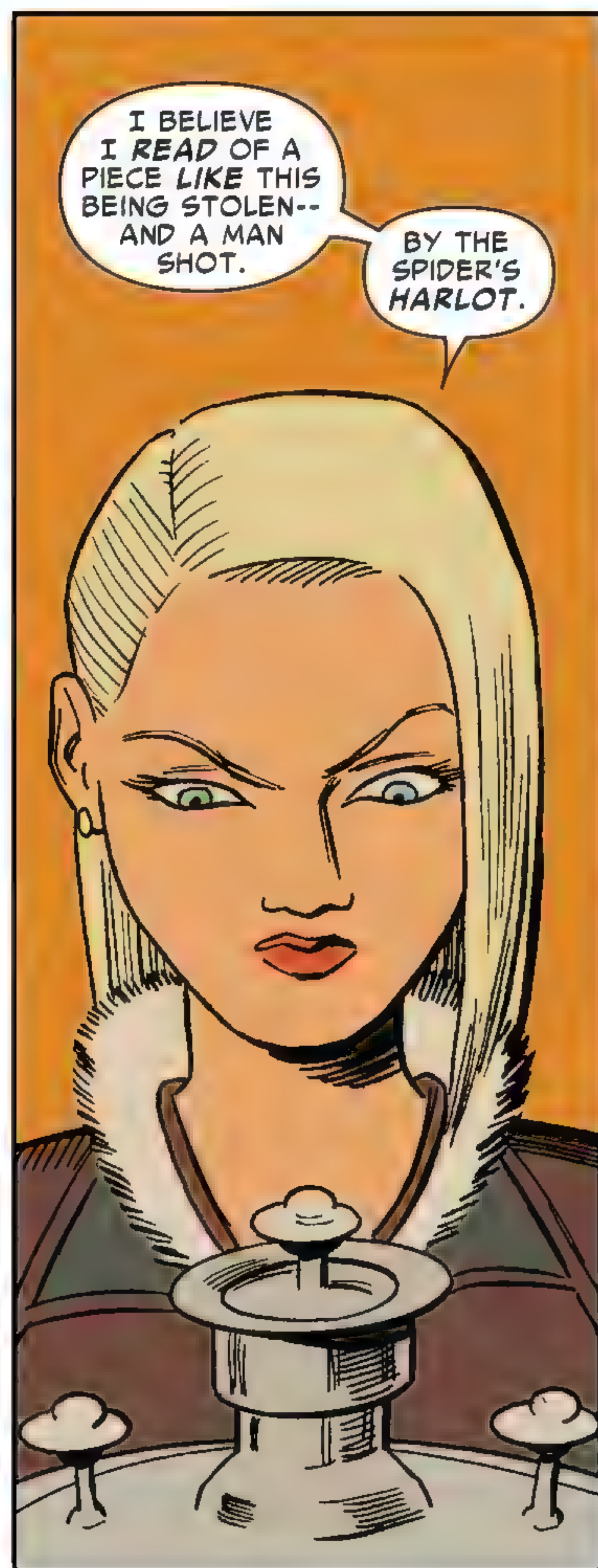
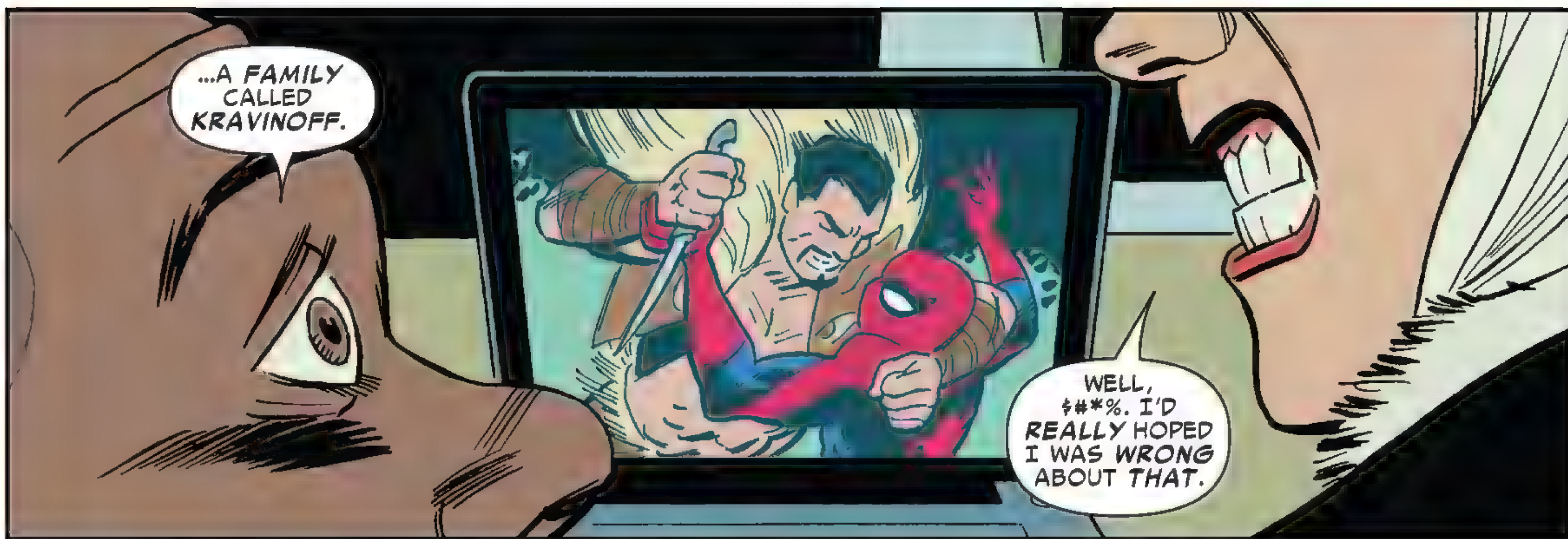
WHY ARE
YOU WORKING
SO HARD TO
KEEP ME IN
THE DARK?

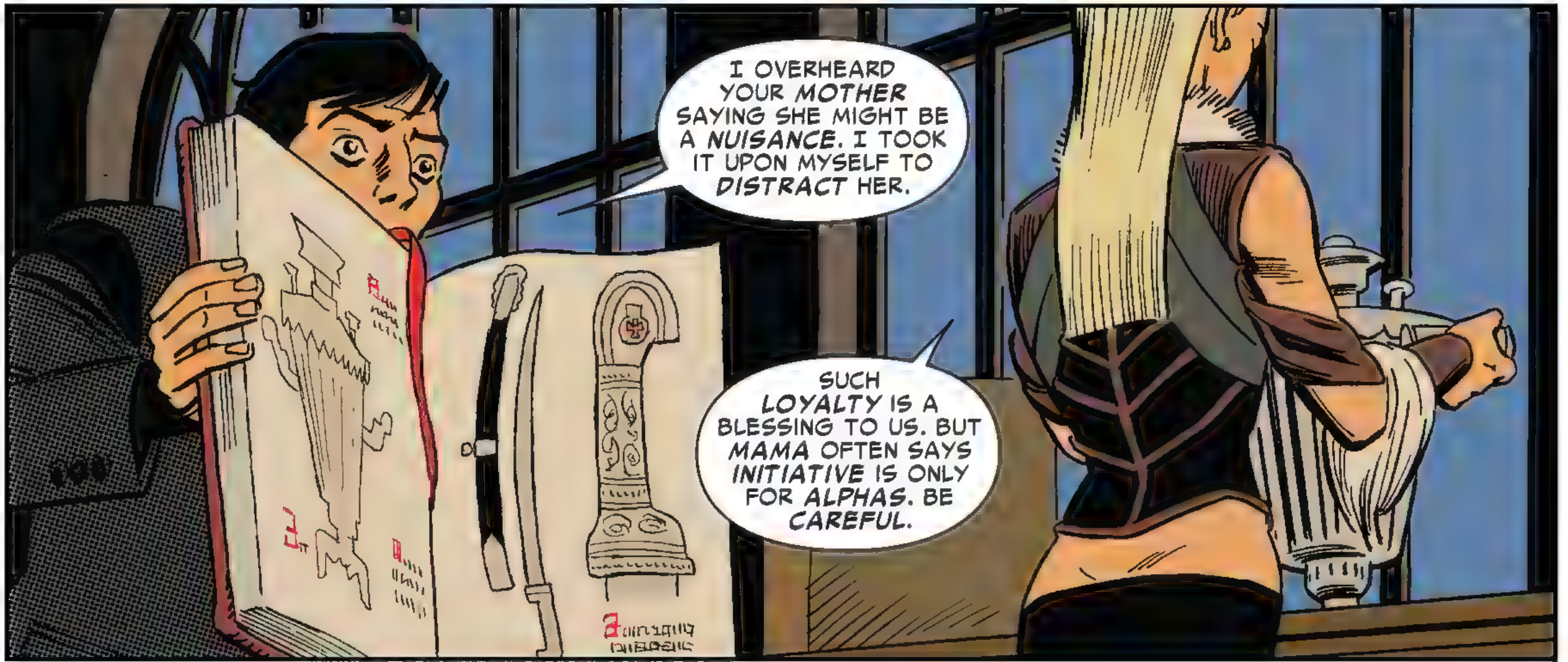
BECAUSE
IT *ISN'T*
ABOUT
YOU!



HONESTLY,
SPIDER, IT
PROBABLY IS. AND
I DON'T WANT
YOU ANYWHERE
NEAR IT.







I OVERHEARD YOUR MOTHER SAYING SHE MIGHT BE A NUISANCE. I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF TO DISTRACT HER.

SUCH LOYALTY IS A BLESSING TO US. BUT MAMA OFTEN SAYS INITIATIVE IS ONLY FOR ALPHAS. BE CAREFUL.

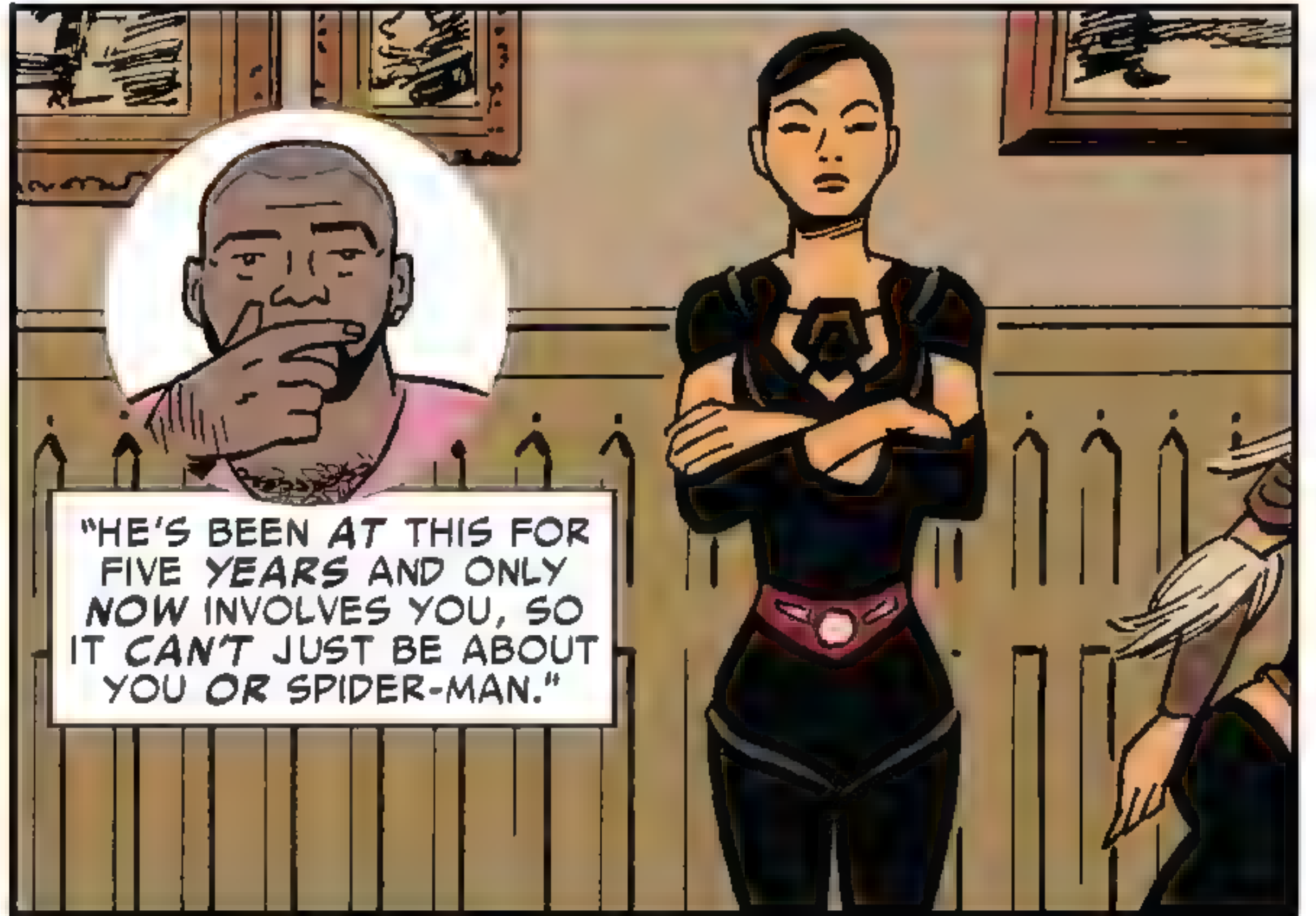


HAVE YOU SECURED THIS SWORD YET? "TAKEN FROM THE DISGRACED EMPEROR..."

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT.

ANA. YOUR BROTHER AWAITS YOU IN THE SALLE D'ARMES.

IT HAS BEEN ONE OF THE HARDEST TO GET. BUT I WILL BE PROUD TO PLACE IT IN YOUR HANDS ONE DAY.



"HE'S BEEN AT THIS FOR FIVE YEARS AND ONLY NOW INVOLVES YOU, SO IT CAN'T JUST BE ABOUT YOU OR SPIDER-MAN."



"COULD BE HE'S JUST BEEN HIRED BY THE FAMILY, SOME GAME OF THEIRS."



NAH...IT'S
TOO PERSONAL.
HE KIDNAPPED
HER MOM.

MAYBE HE'S
JUST MAKING IT
PERSONAL FOR HER
BECAUSE HE CAN'T GET
THE TIARA HIMSELF.
OR MAYBE SHE'S
JUST BAIT.

IT DOESN'T
HAVE TO BE HIS
OBSESSION--

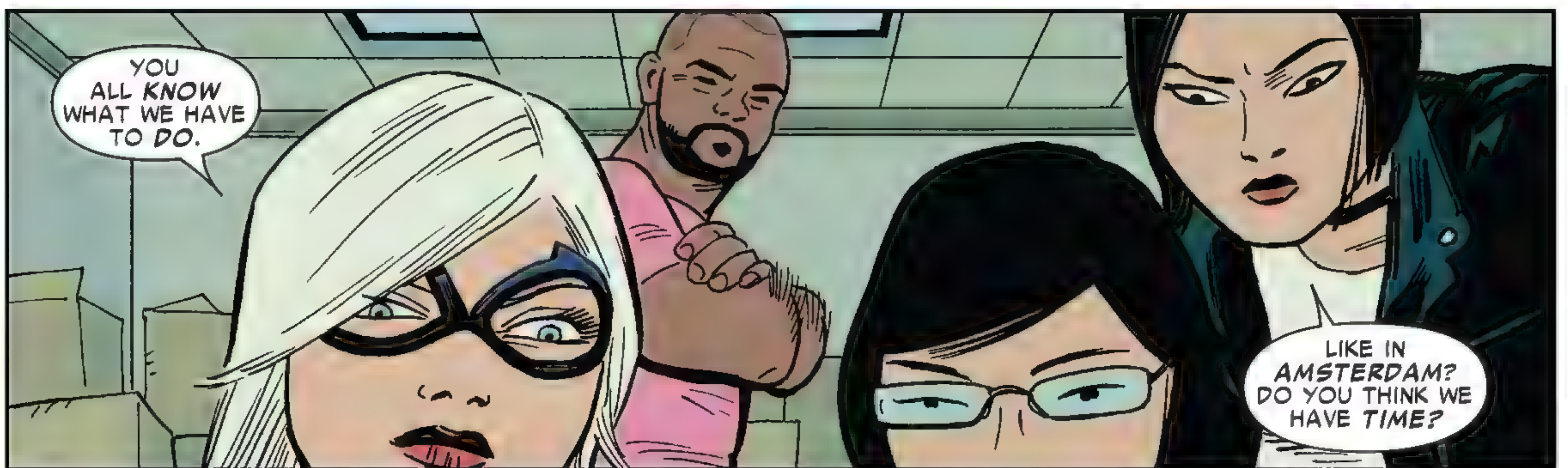
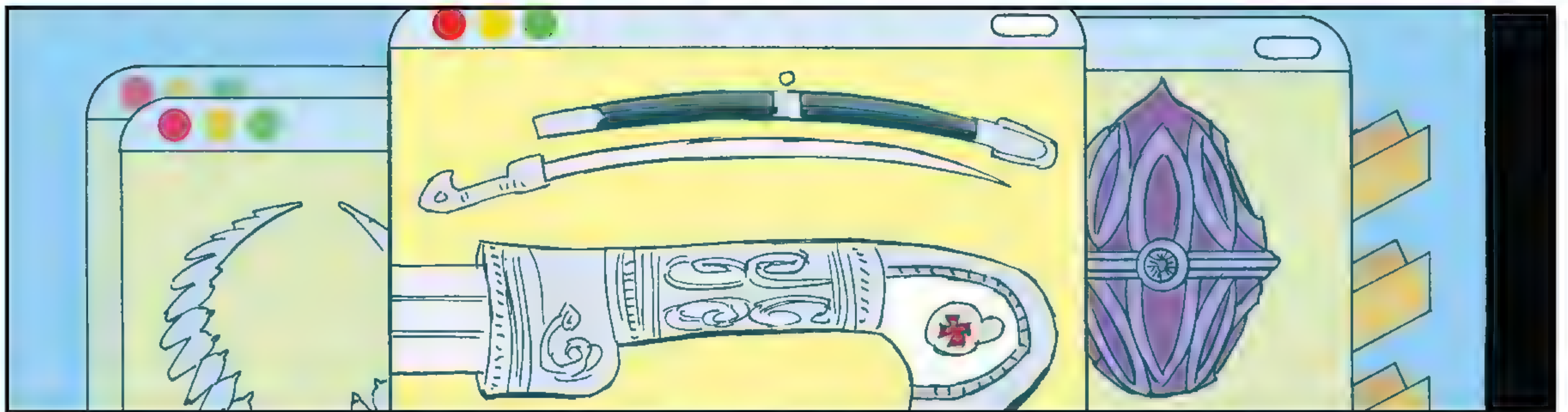
I MAKE
A NICE LIVING,
IN PART BY
UNDERSTANDING
COLLECTORS
AND THEIR
OBSESSIONS.

THIS GUY'S
PATTERN DOES
NOT READ LIKE
WORK FOR HIRE.
HE'S A FAN.

YOU CAN
SEE, CAN'T
YOU? AS LONG AS
HE CAN USE YOUR
MOTHER TO MAKE
YOU WORK
FOR HIM...

...AND IF
THE FAMILY
AND THEIR THINGS
ARE THE
FETISH--

THE
COLLECTION
WON'T BE
COMPLETE
AFTER THE
TIARA.



YOU
ALL KNOW
WHAT WE HAVE
TO DO.

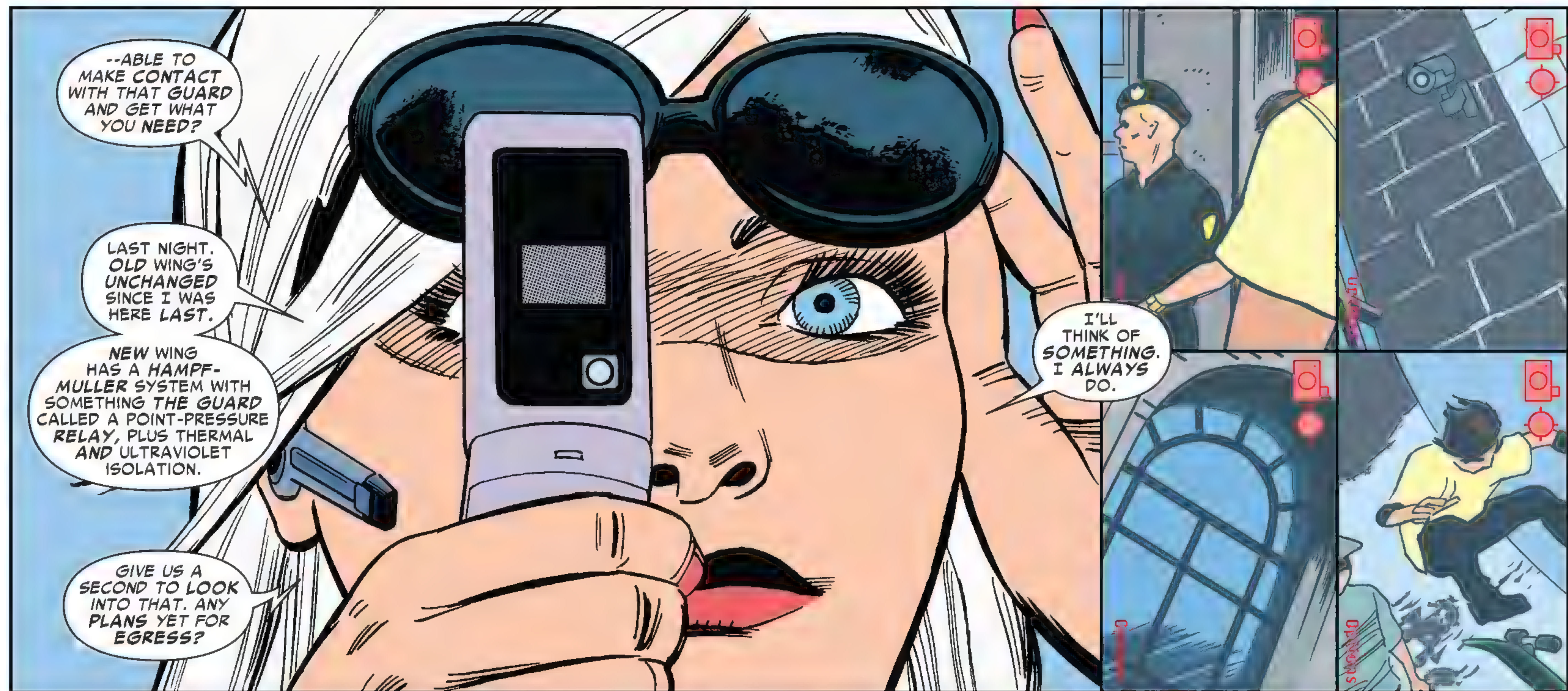
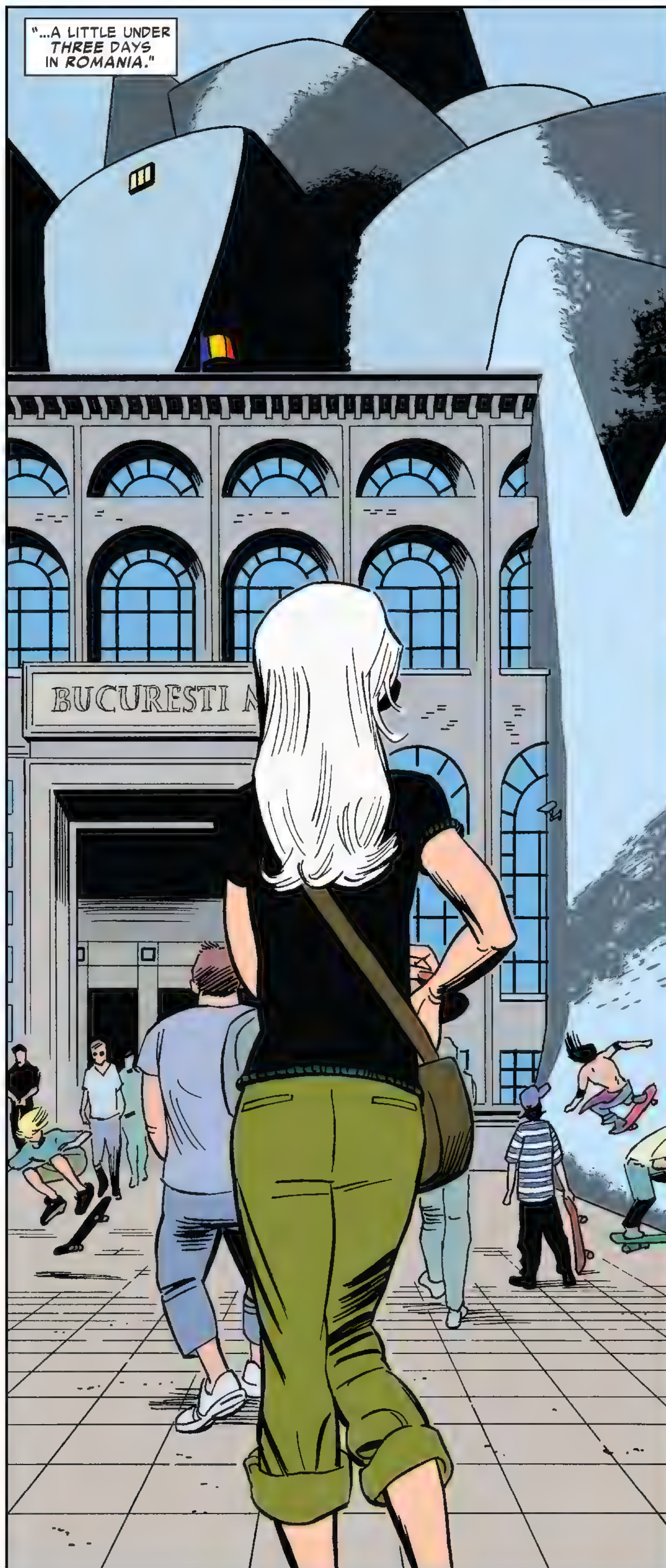
LIKE IN
AMSTERDAM?
DO YOU THINK WE
HAVE TIME?

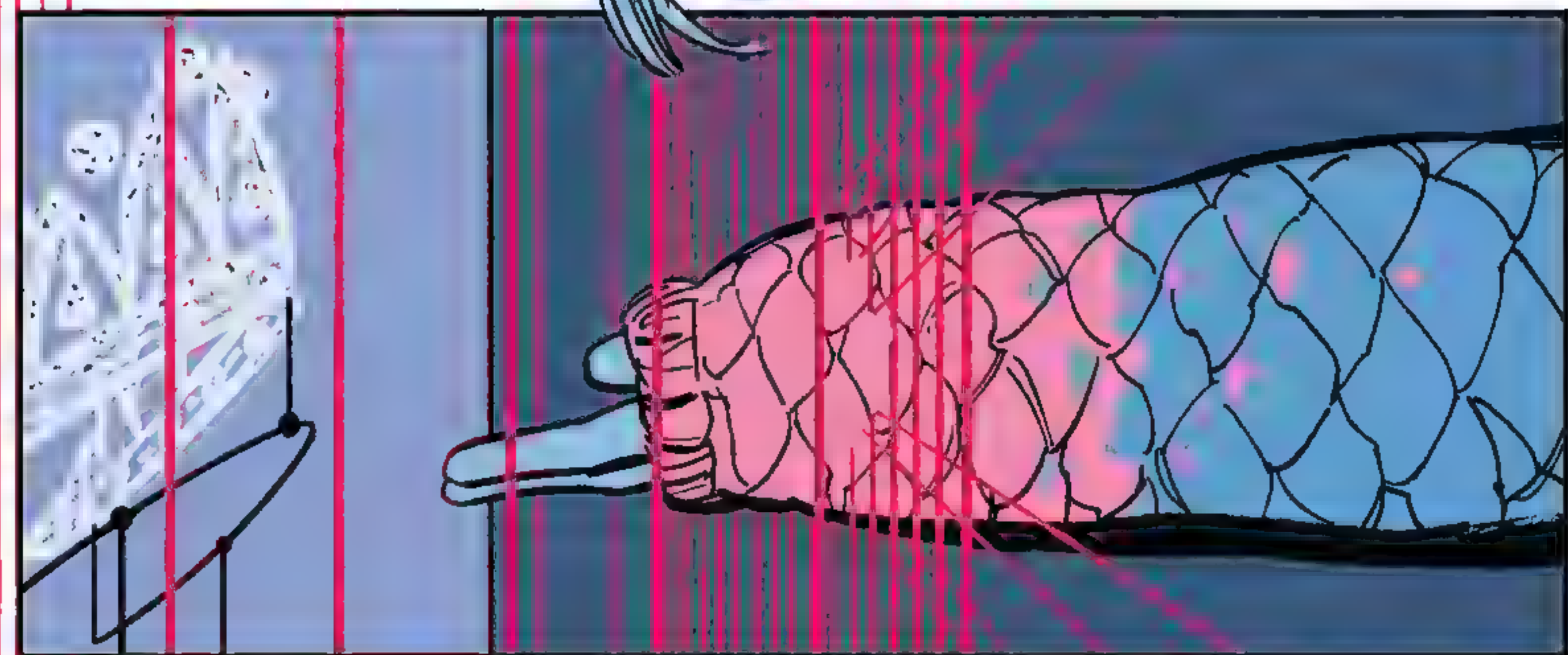
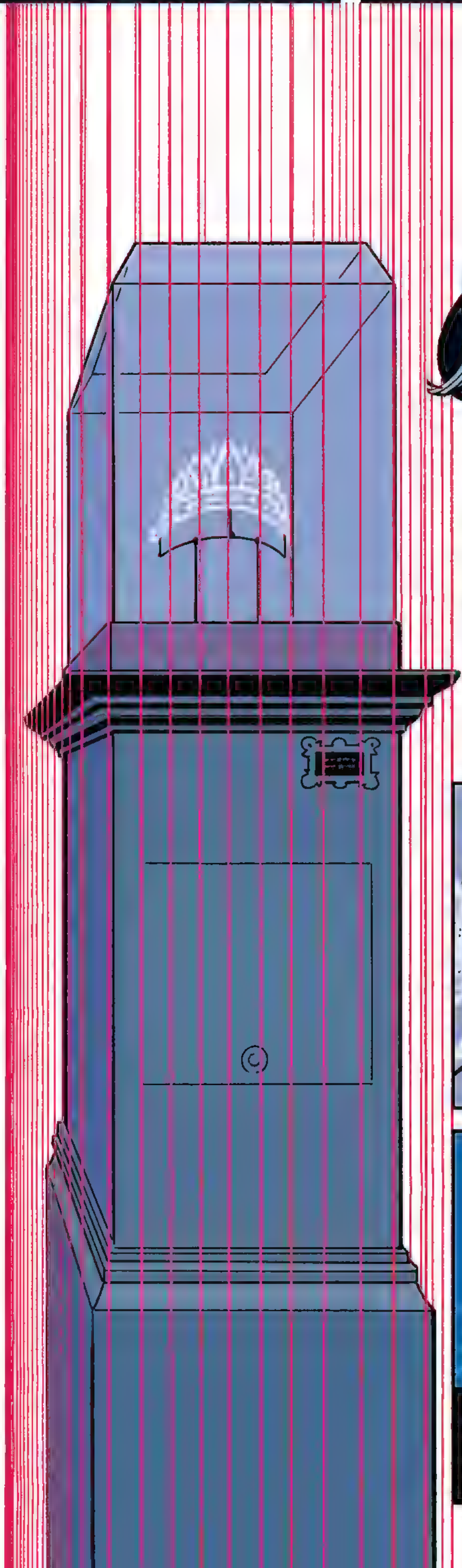
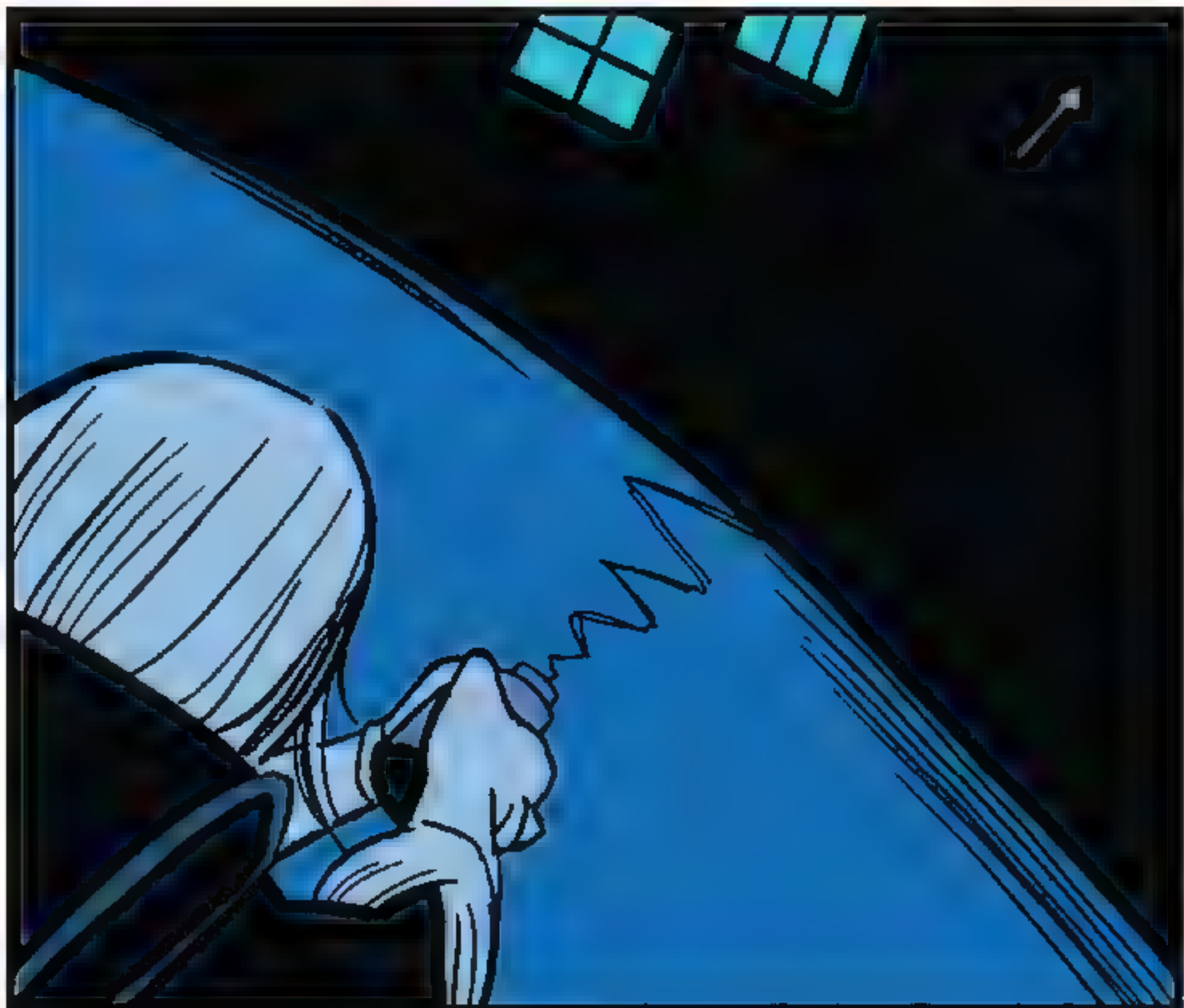
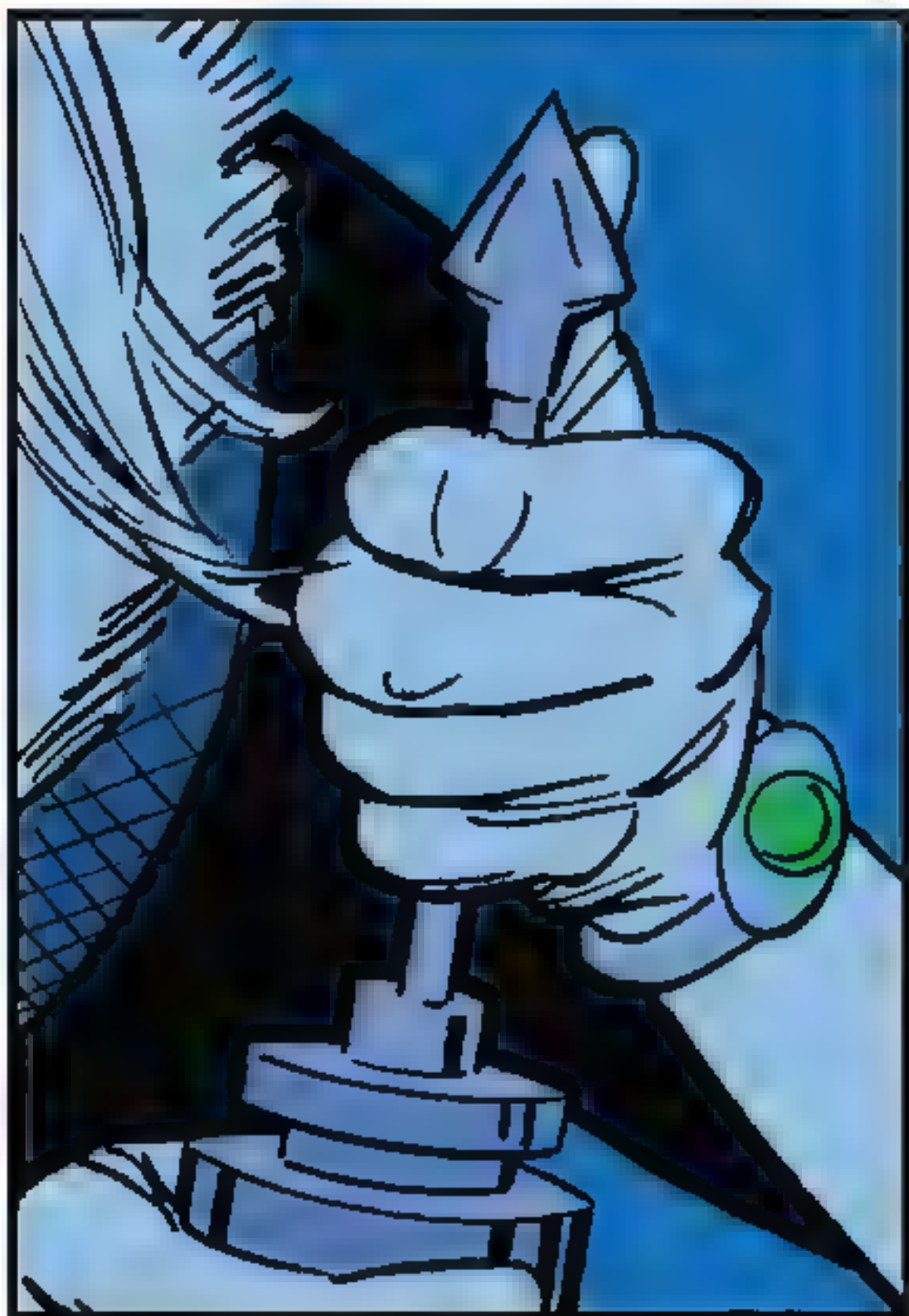
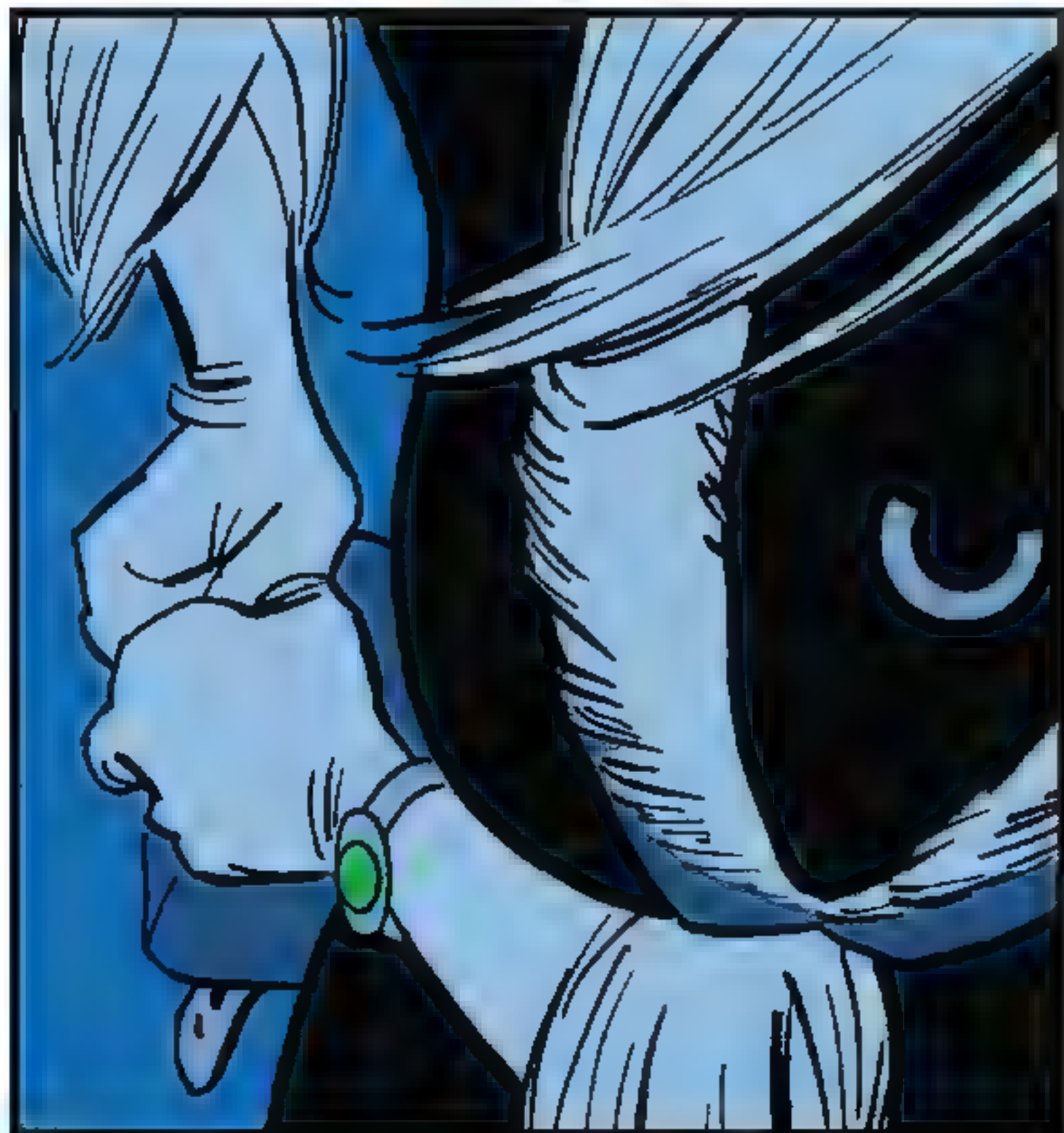
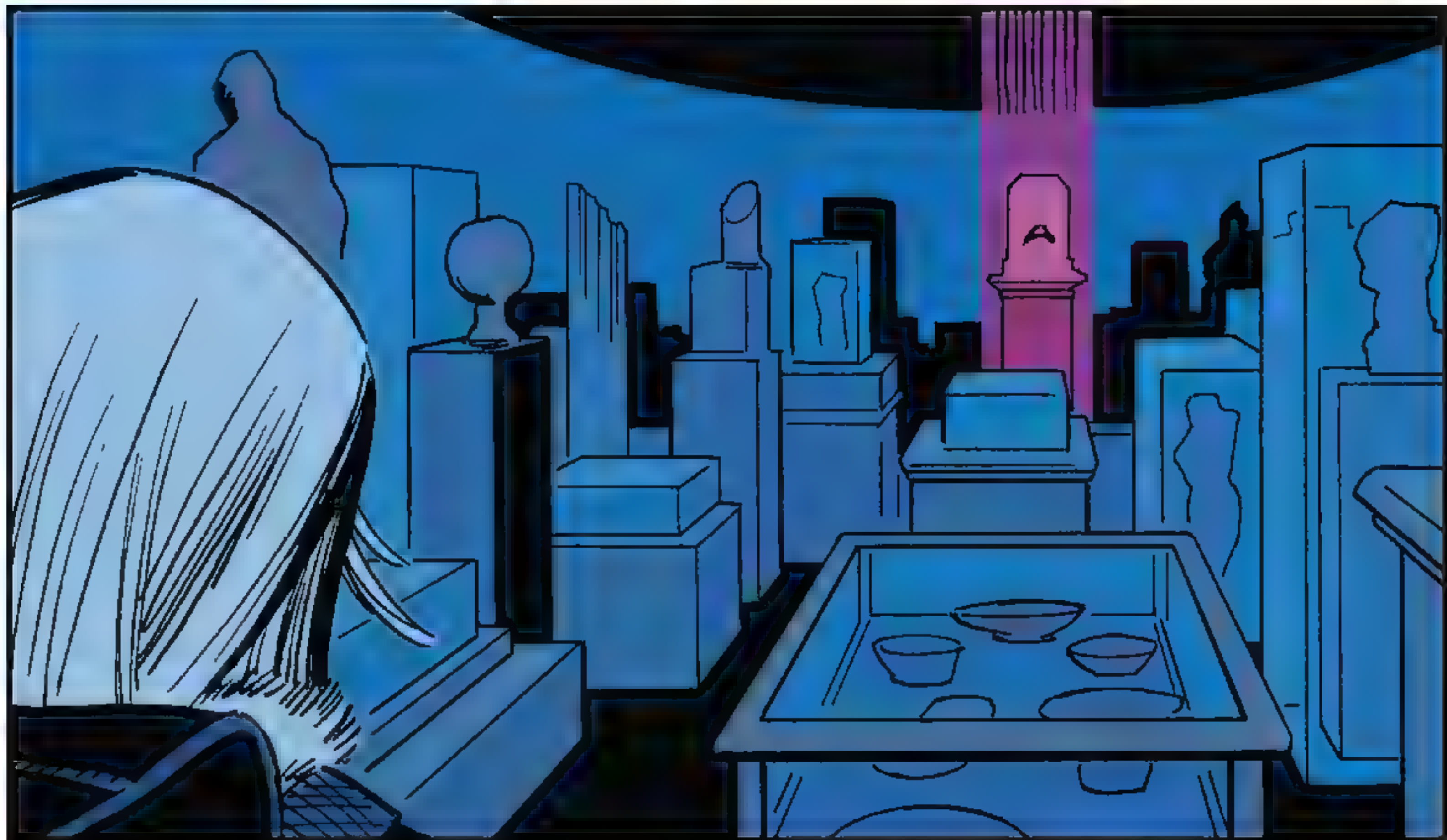
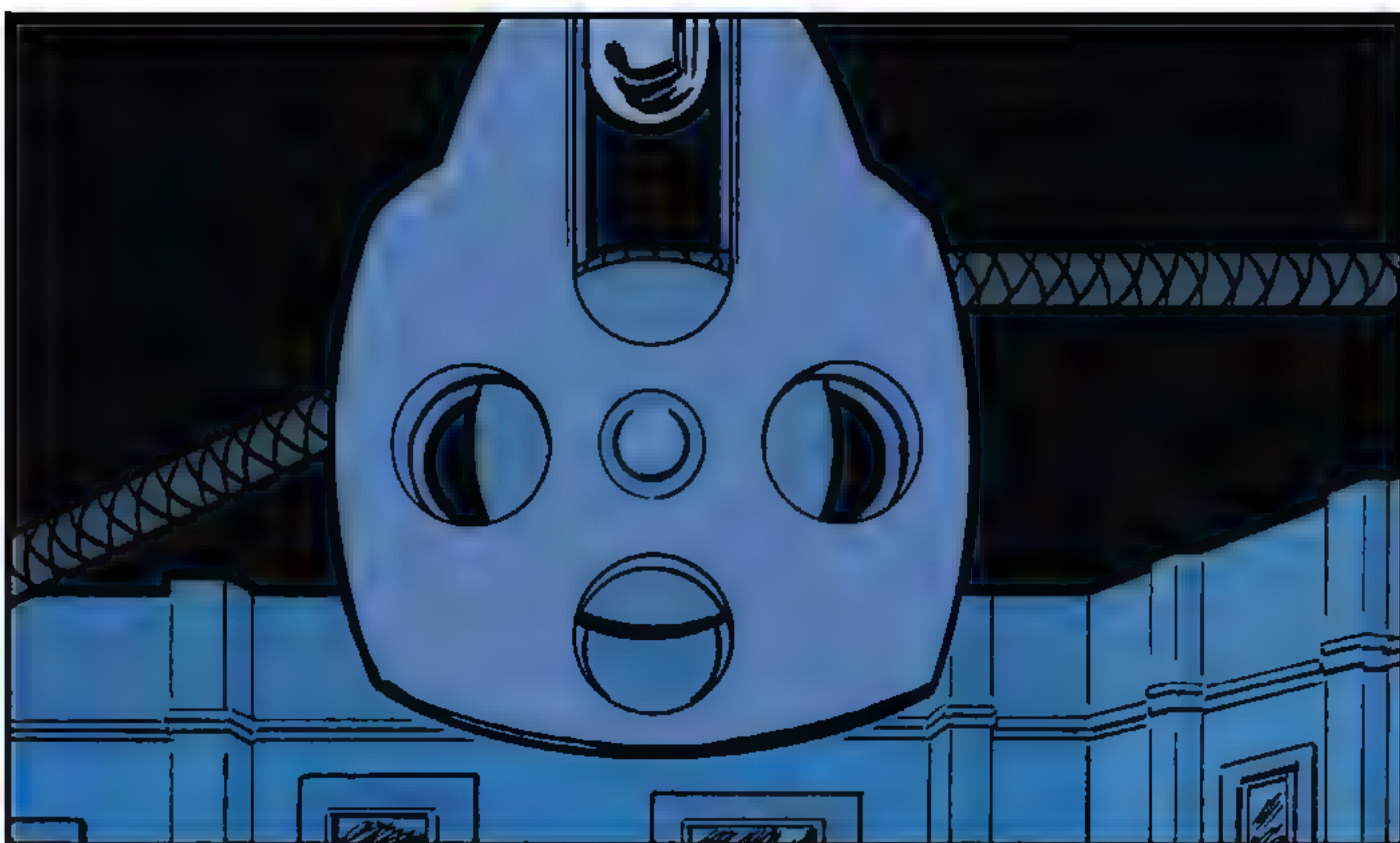


RIGHT. FIRST
THINGS FIRST.
WHICH I.D. DO YOU
WANT TO TRAVEL
UNDER?

SADIE
HOPKIRK IS
CLEAN.

'KAY, SADIE.
I'VE GOT YOU IN
AND OUT WITHIN THE
SEVEN DAYS, DEPARTING
IN TWENTY HOURS--
WINDOW OR AISLE?--
THAT GIVES
YOU...





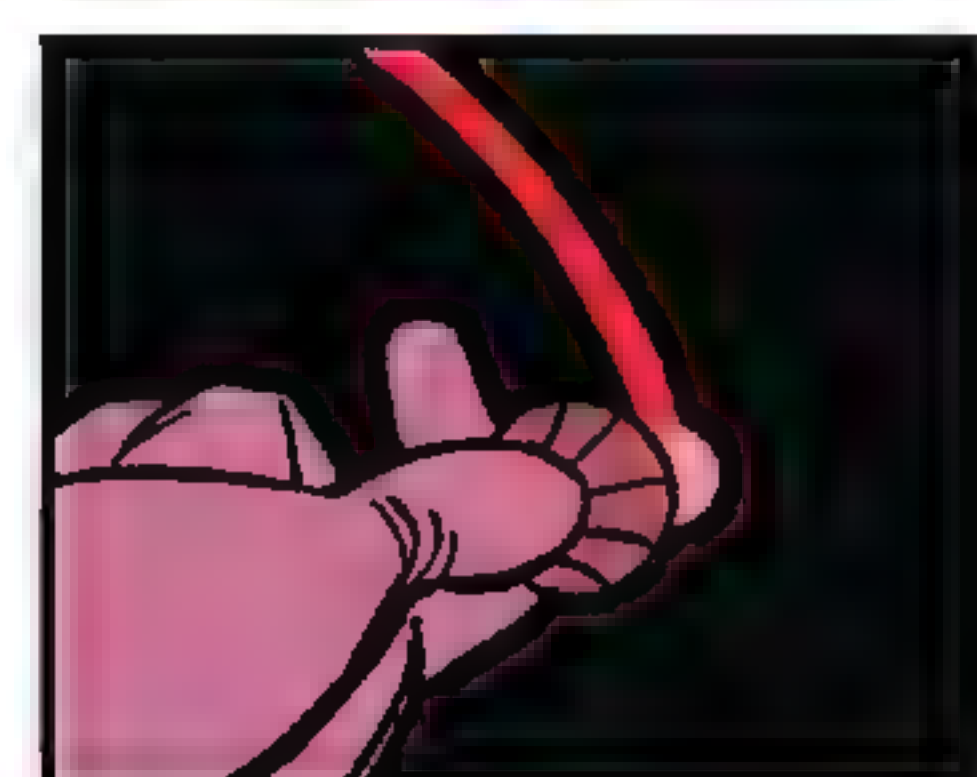
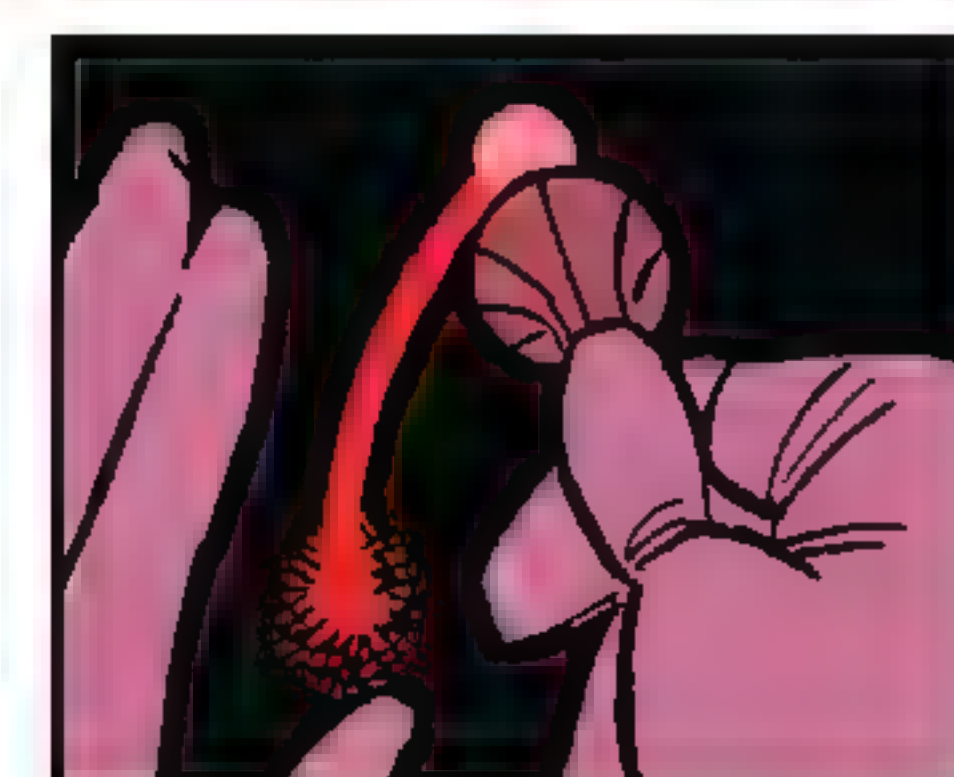
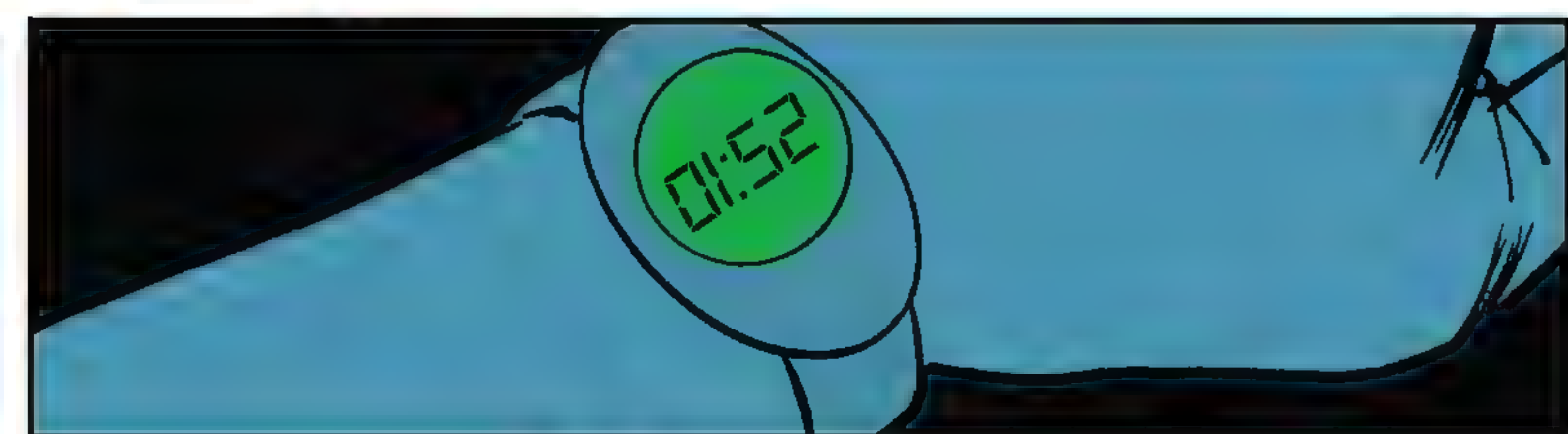
DEEEEEE

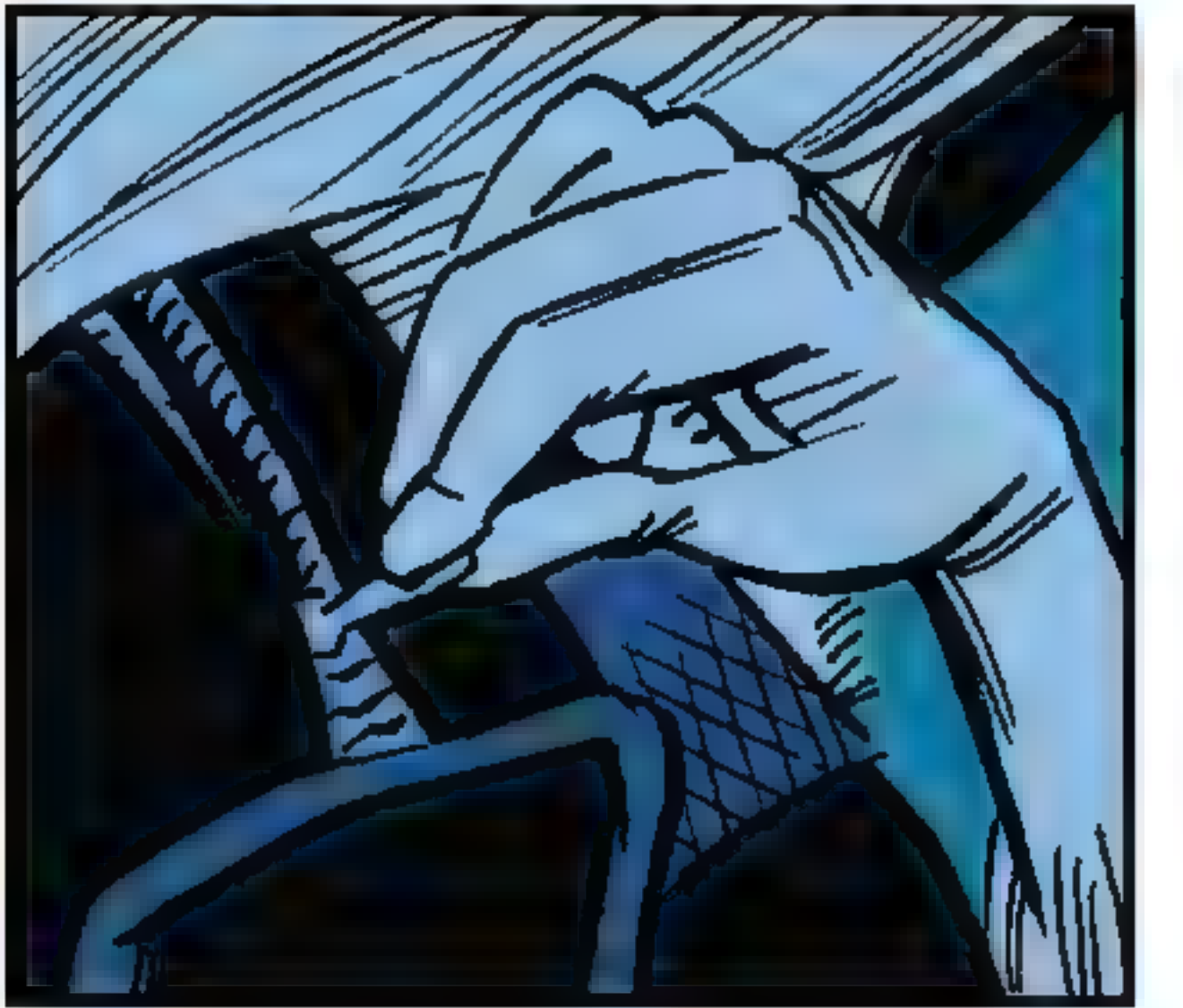
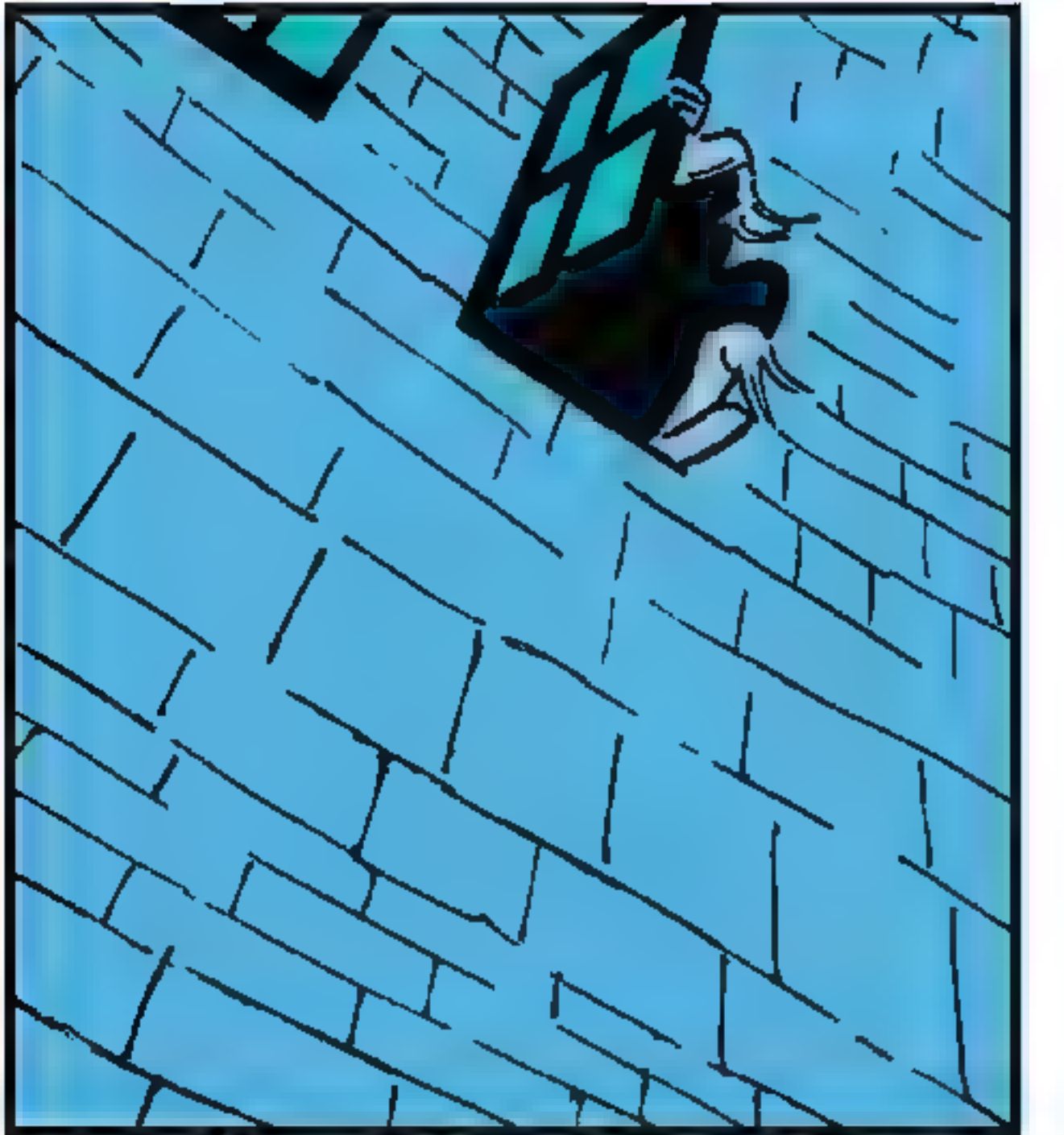
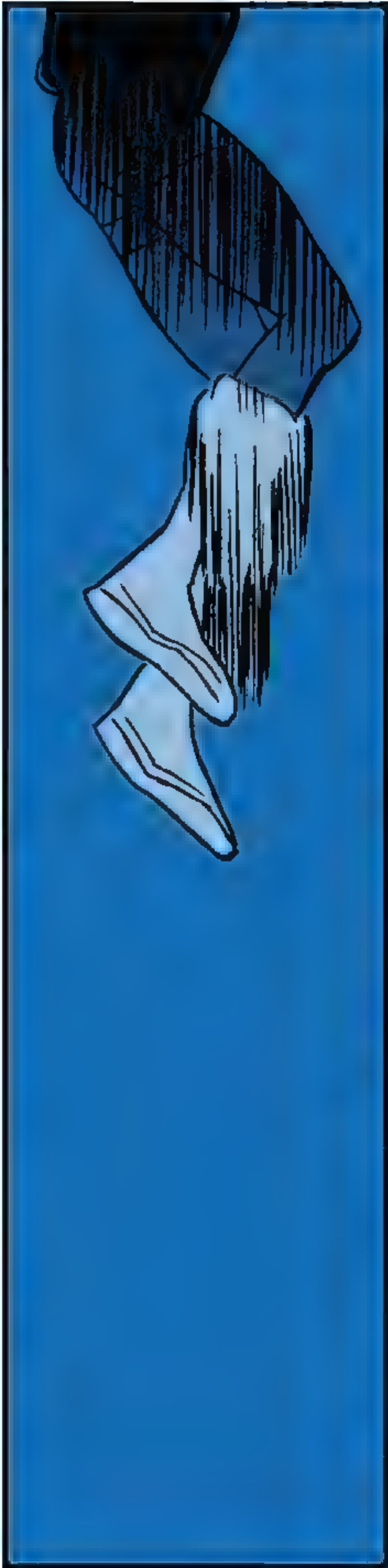
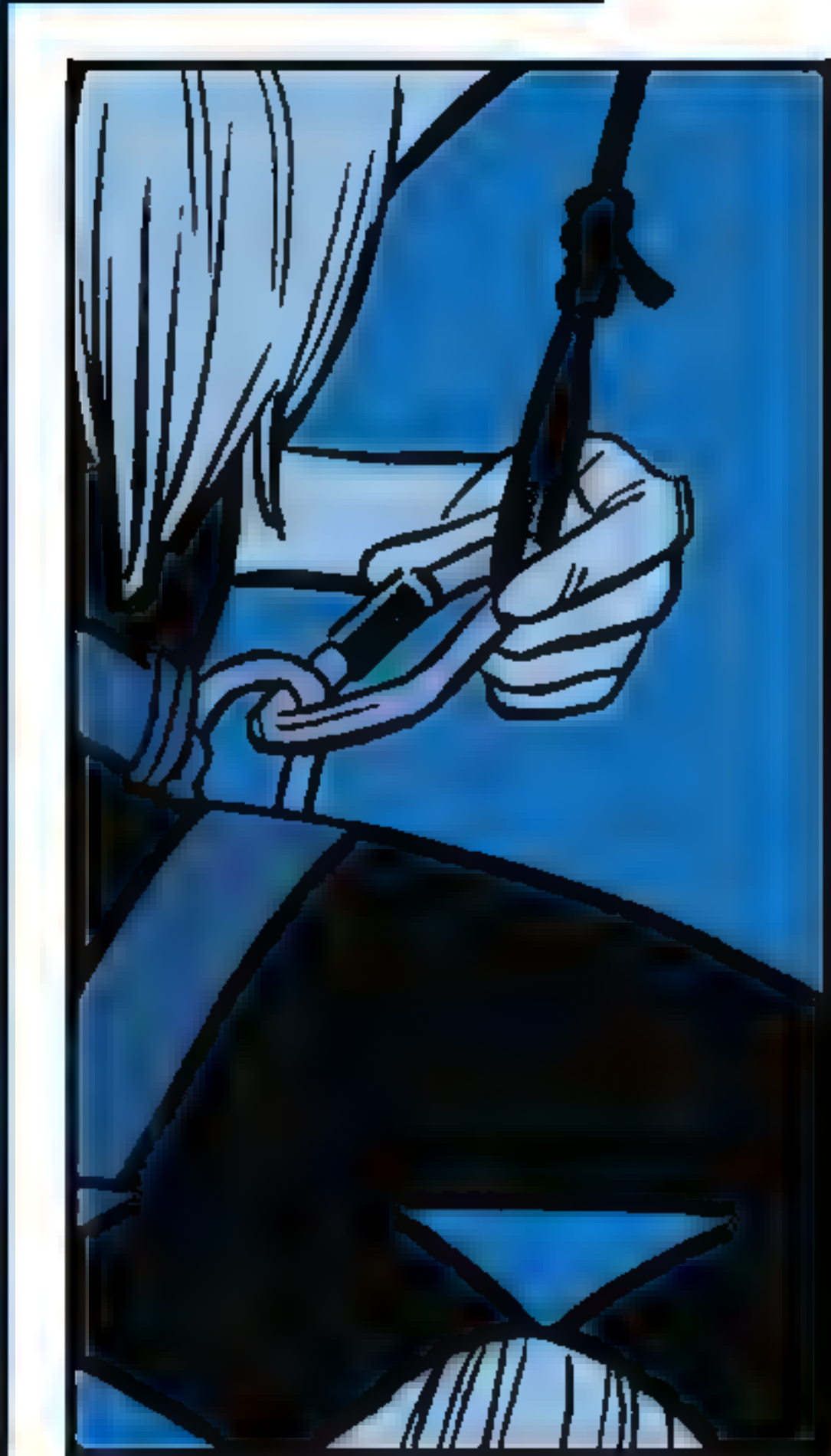


EEEEETDEEEEEEEEEEEEEETDEEEEEEE



EETDEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEETDEEEEEEEEEEEE







WELCOME HOME, MISS HOPKIRK. THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE.

"DON'T TELL ME YOU CARRIED IT ON! THEY X-RAY EVERYTHING NOW!"



I TOLD YOU I'D THINK OF SOMETHING.



FIRST, I THOUGHT OF BECOMING A SCULPTOR.

AND THEN I THOUGHT OF LEAD-BASED GLAZES.



BUT YOU HAD TO FIRE THE CLAY, AND THEN AGAIN--!

NOPE. PLASTER DIPPED IN LEAD PAINT, ACRYLICS AND LACQUER OVER THAT.



SHE'S FINE, SEE?



TIME TO MAKE THE CALL?

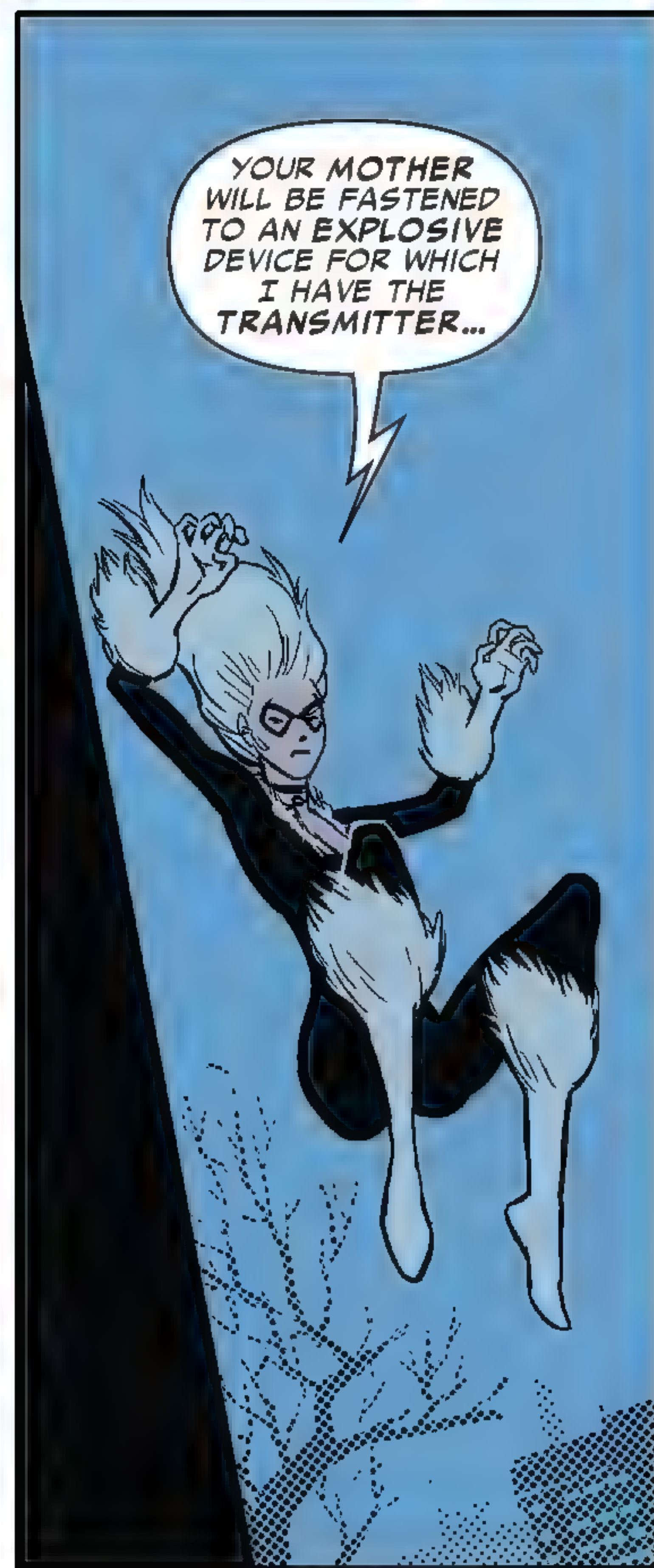
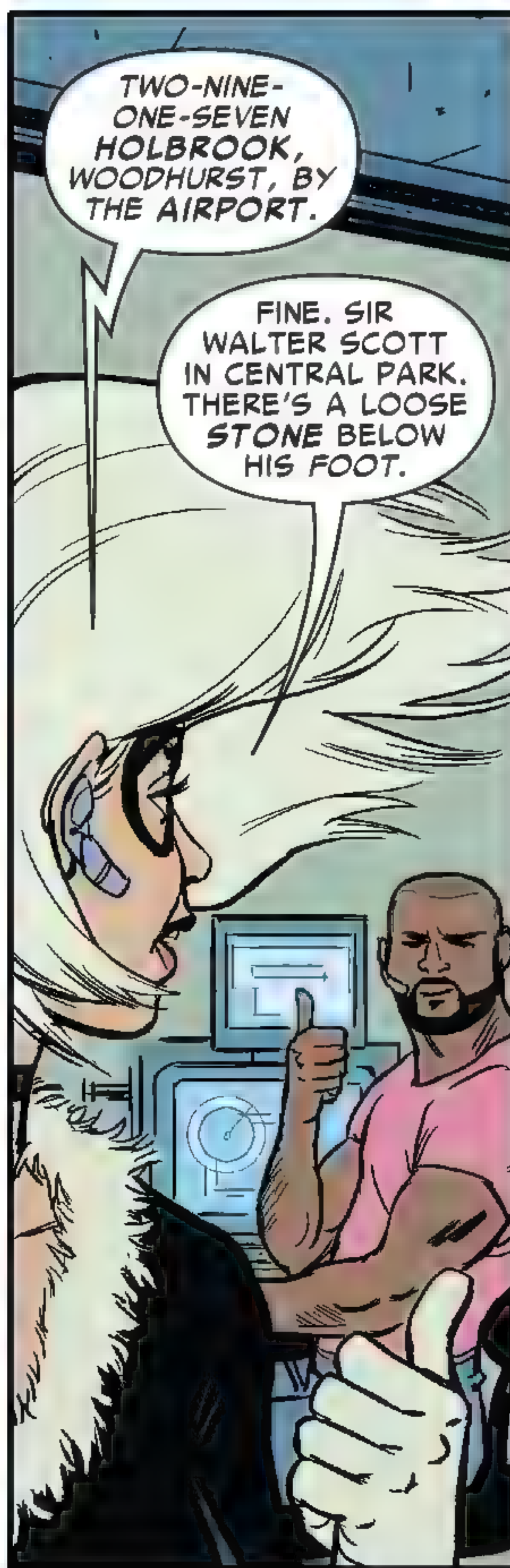
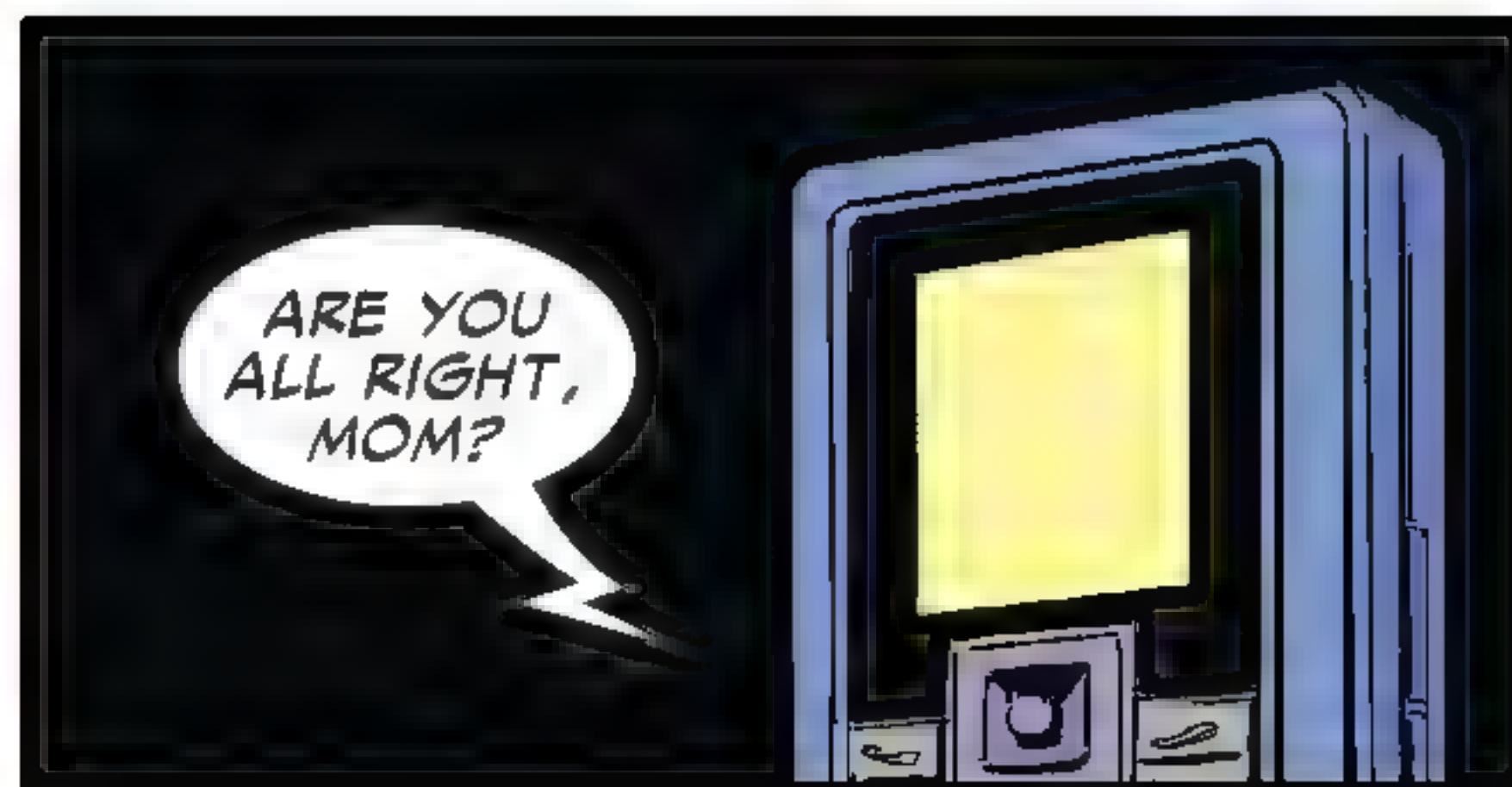


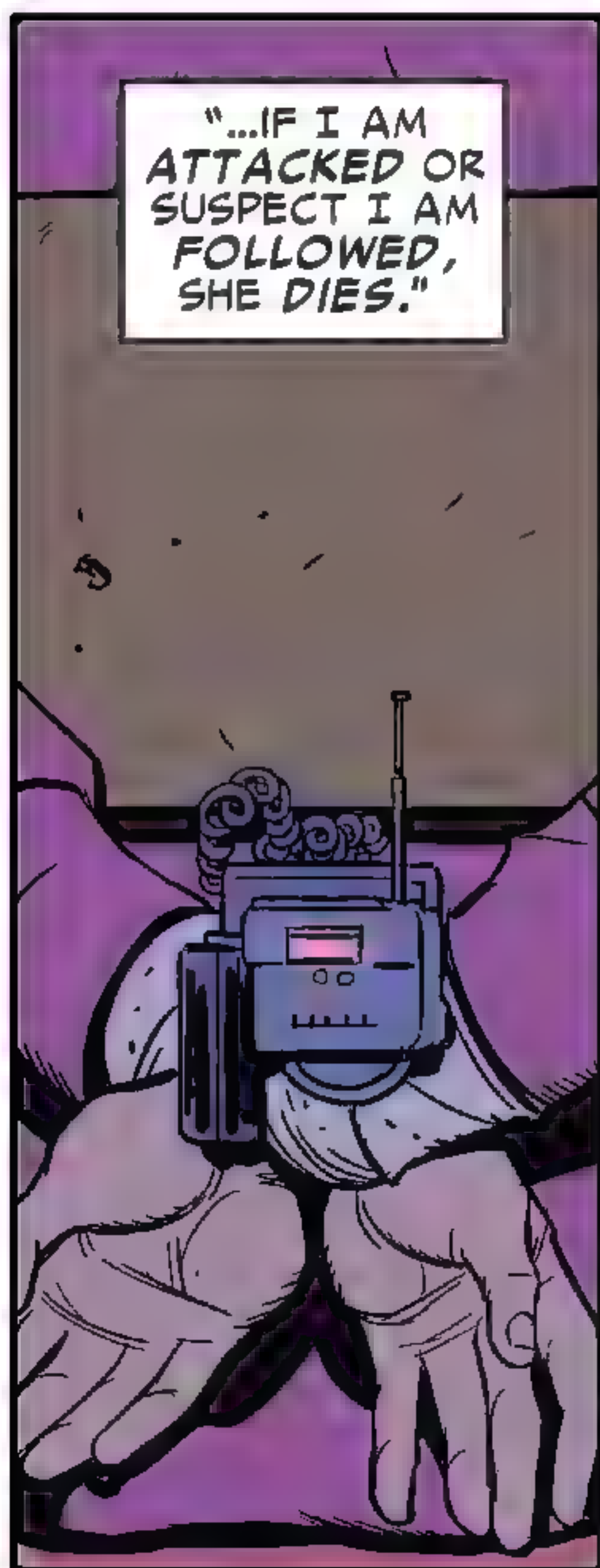
HOW ARE YOU DOING?

SIX DAYS WITH ACCESS TO THE WORKSHOP HERE-- I'M OKAY.



THEN IT'S TIME.





"...IF I AM
ATTACKED OR
SUSPECT I AM
FOLLOWED,
SHE DIES."



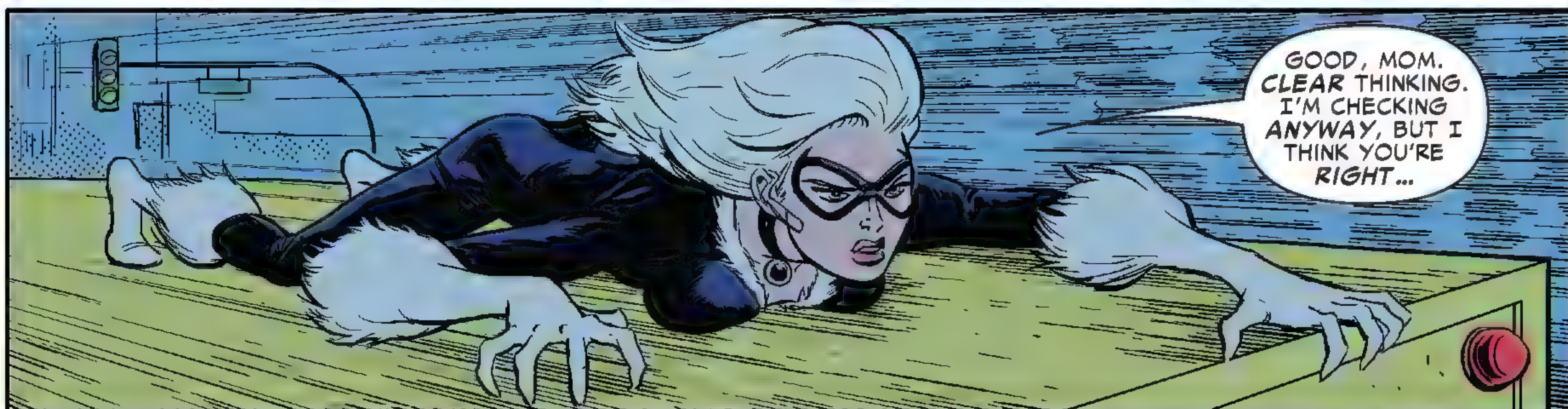
HE'S
GONE.

GOOD.
HAVE YOU SEEN
ANYONE
ELSE--?

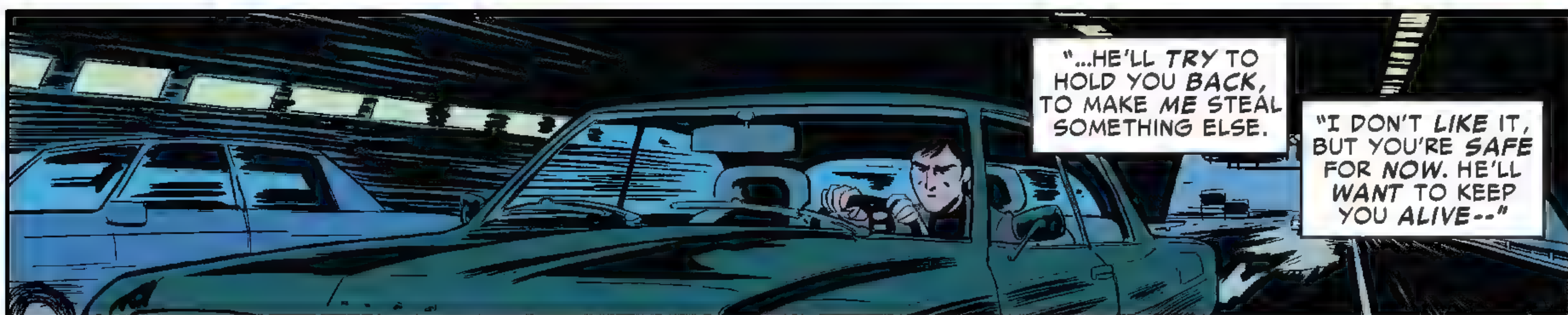


NO, ONLY
HIM. I HEAR
OTHER PEOPLE, LIKE
IN AN APARTMENT
BUILDING, BUT I'VE
BEEN AFRAID TO
SHOUT. WHAT IF--
THEY'RE WITH
HIM?

AND FELICIA...
I DON'T THINK
HE GAVE YOU THE
RIGHT ADDRESS.
I HAVEN'T HEARD
PLANES--



GOOD, MOM.
CLEAR THINKING.
I'M CHECKING
ANYWAY, BUT I
THINK YOU'RE
RIGHT...



"...HE'LL TRY TO
HOLD YOU BACK,
TO MAKE ME STEAL
SOMETHING ELSE.

"I DON'T LIKE IT,
BUT YOU'RE SAFE
FOR NOW. HE'LL
WANT TO KEEP
YOU ALIVE--"



UNTIL
HE'S GOT
EVERYTHING
HE'S AFTER?

UNTIL WE
CAN TURN THIS
AROUND ON HIM
AND GET YOU
OUT OF
THERE.



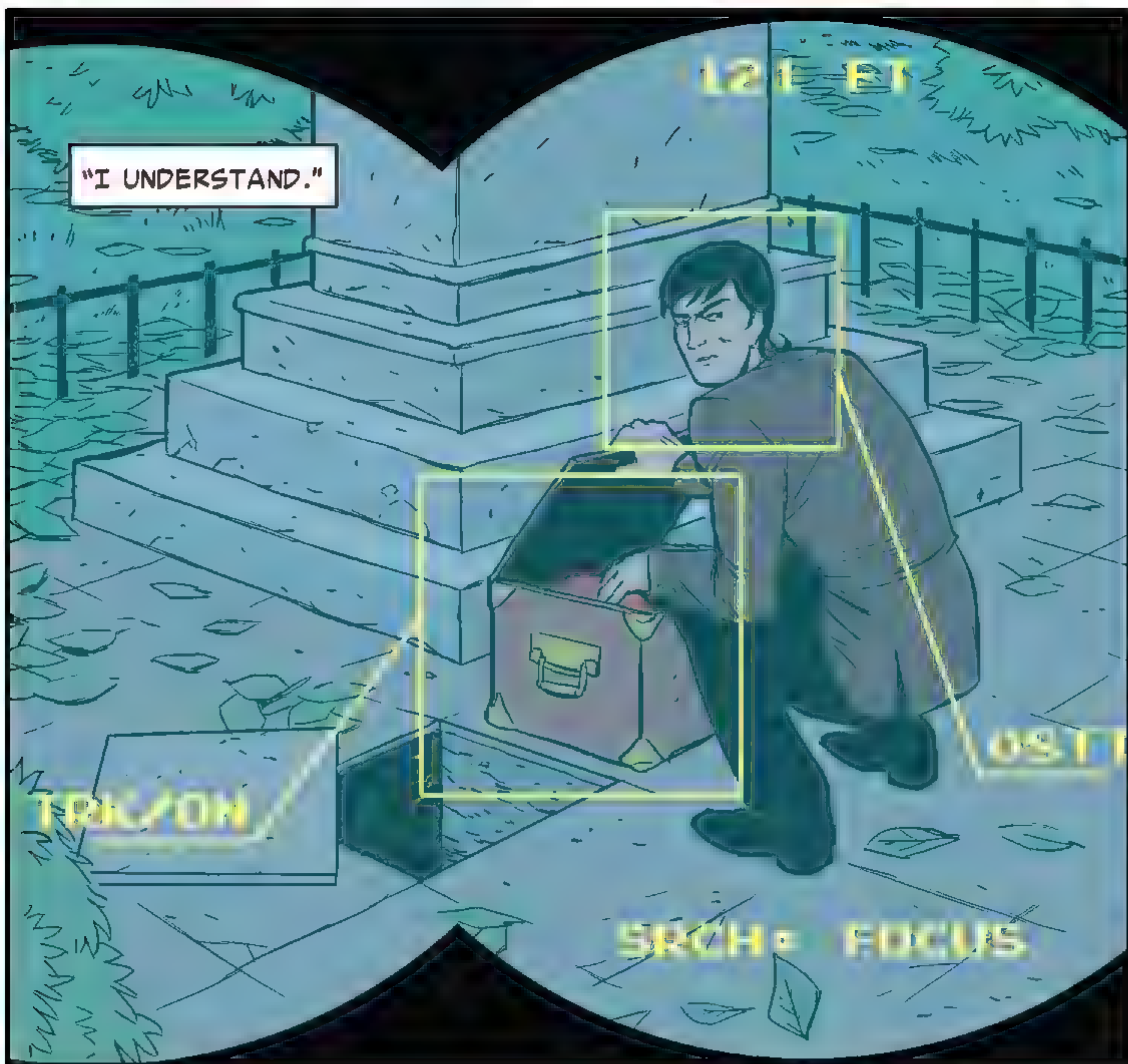
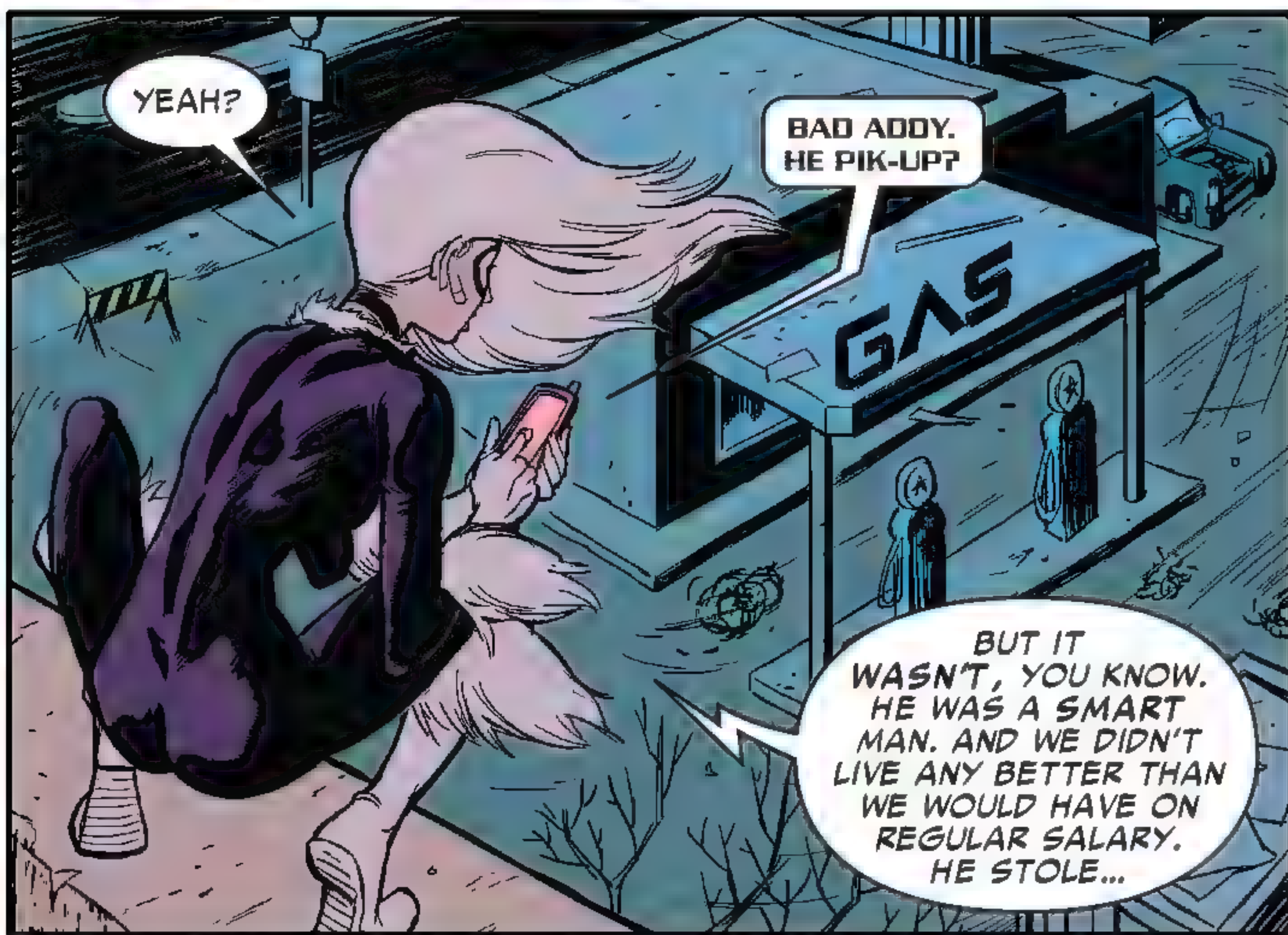
YOU'RE
NOT WORKING
ALONE?

NO. I'VE
GOT PEOPLE.
GOOD PEOPLE. JUST
HANG ON, LIKE
YOU'VE BEEN DOING,
AND IT'LL BE
OKAY.



"WHAT'S THAT
WHOOHING
NOISE?"

"IT'S WIND,
MOM. I'M DOING
ABOUT SIXTY..."



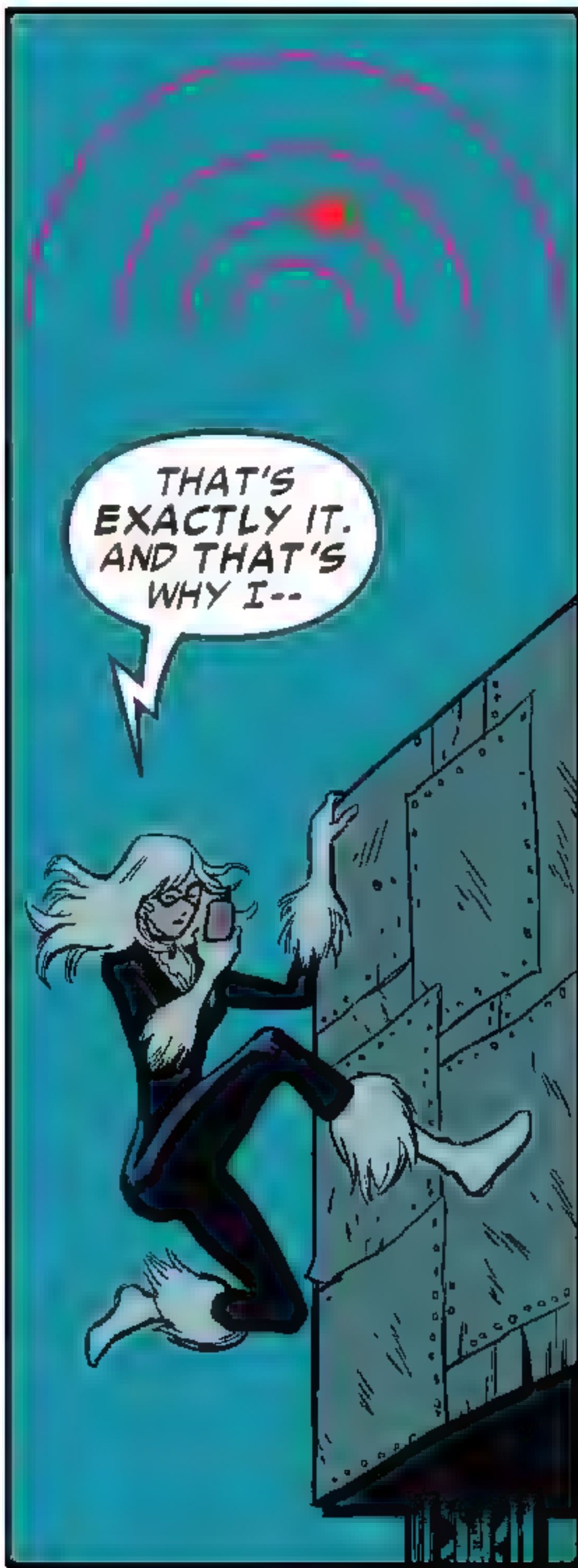


...AND I THINK I UNDERSTAND YOUR RESENTMENT OF IT. HE WAS CHEATING ON YOU ALL THE TIME...

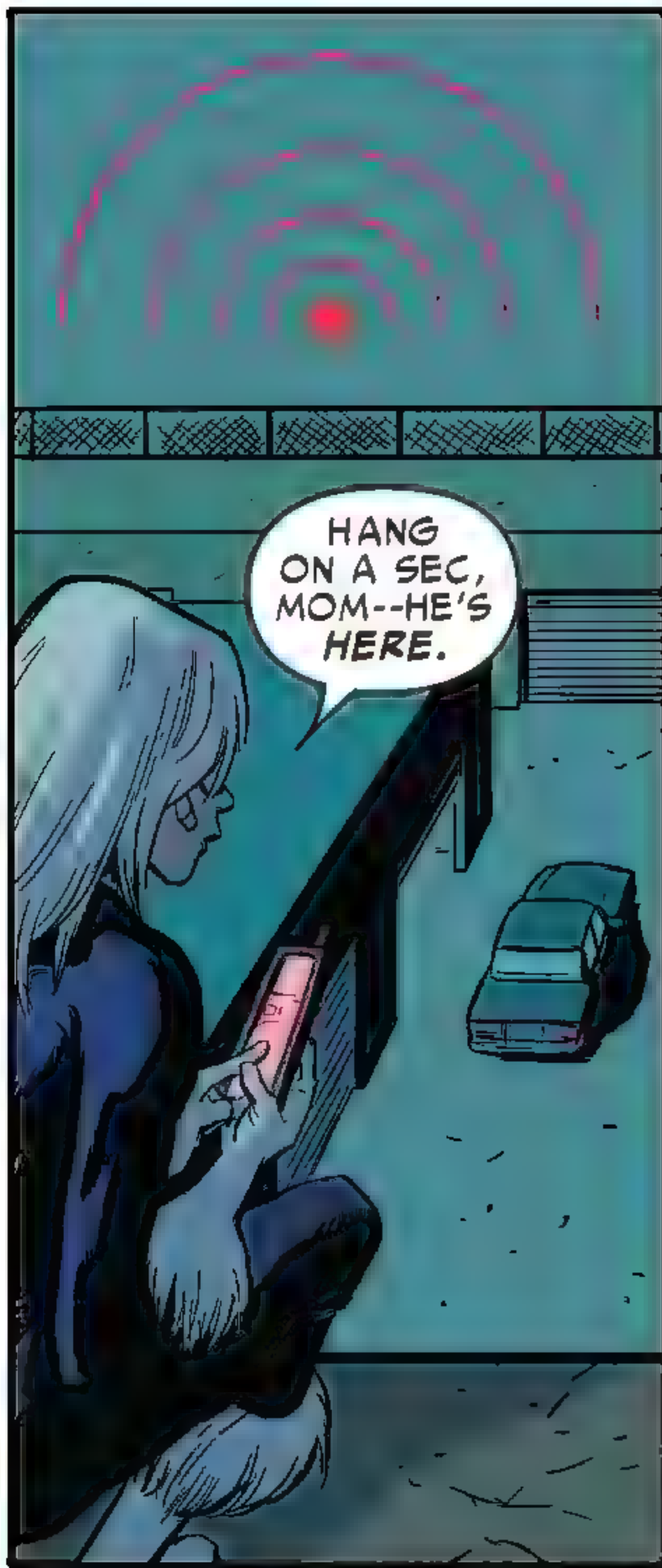


POET SAYS BLOCKED LANDLINE. NO LOCK ON MOM. ??

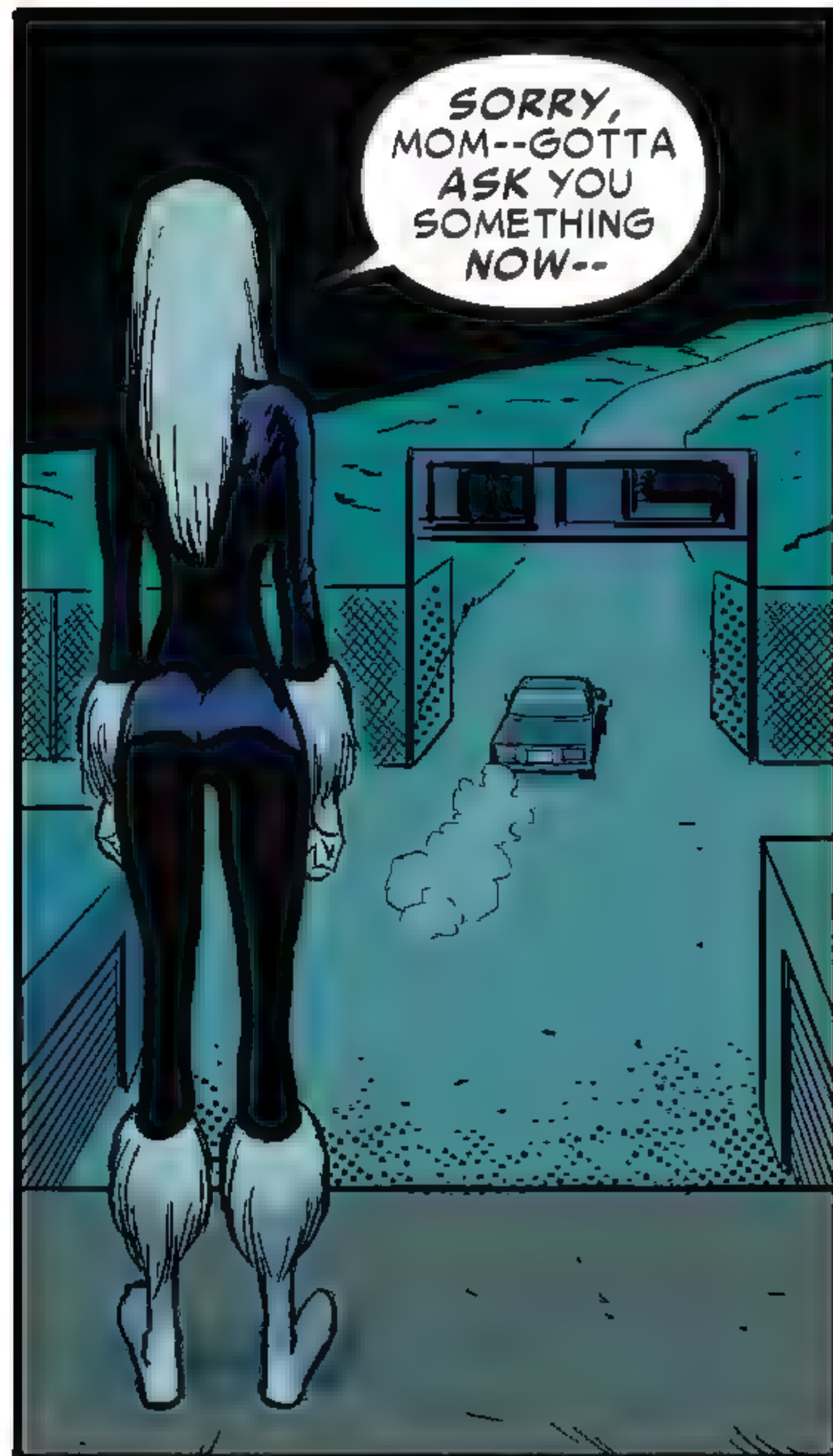
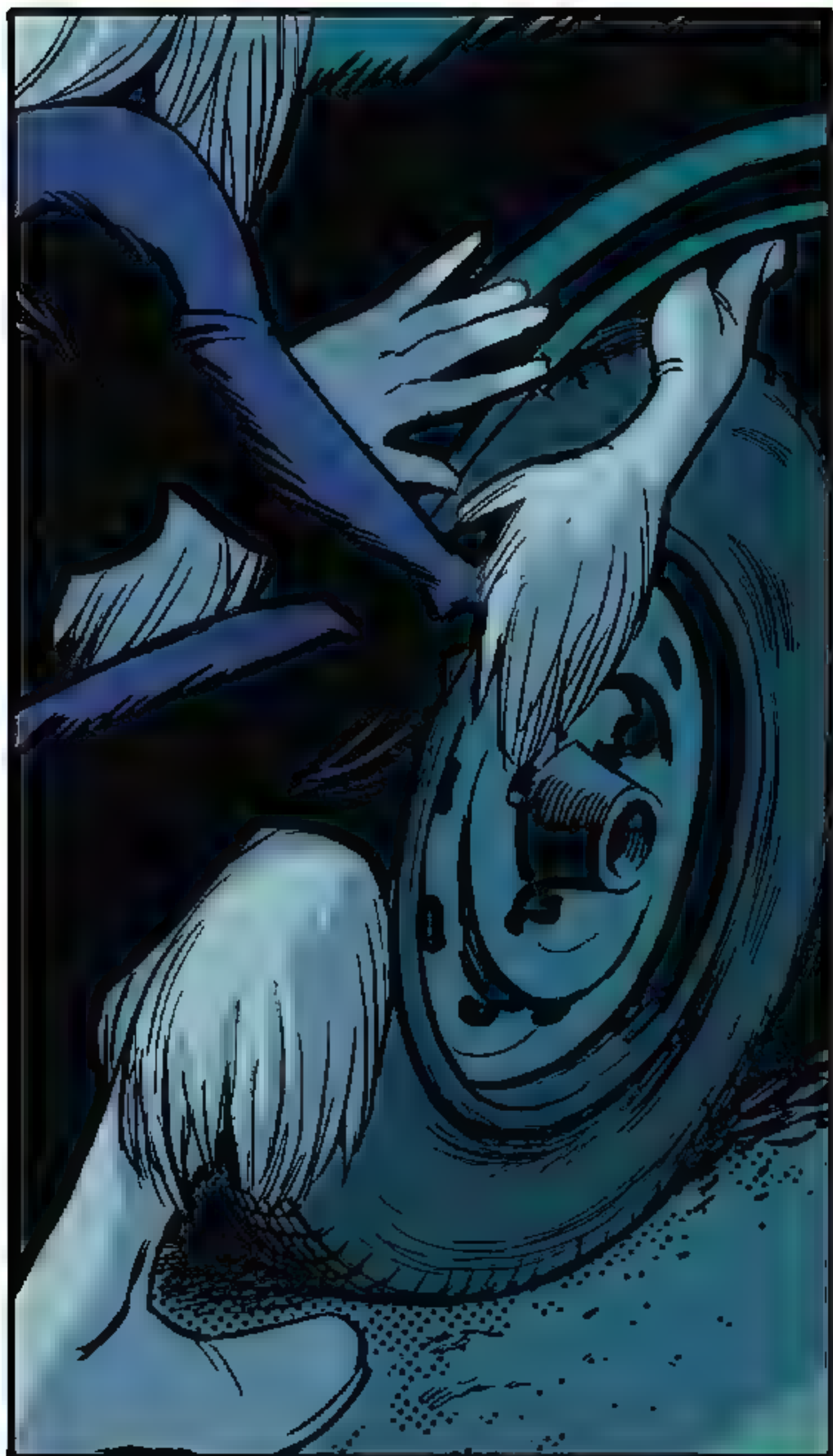
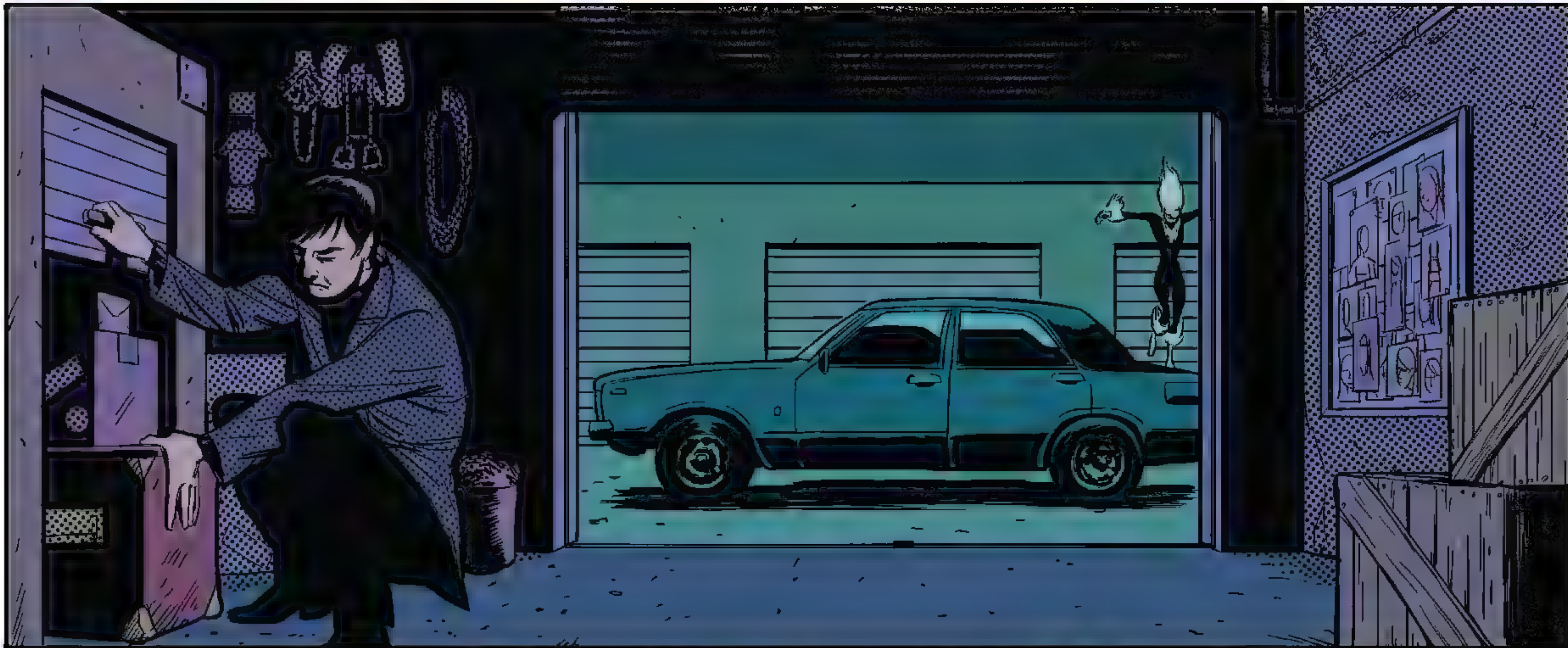
...AND IT WAS WITH STUFF. NOT EVEN ANOTHER PERSON.



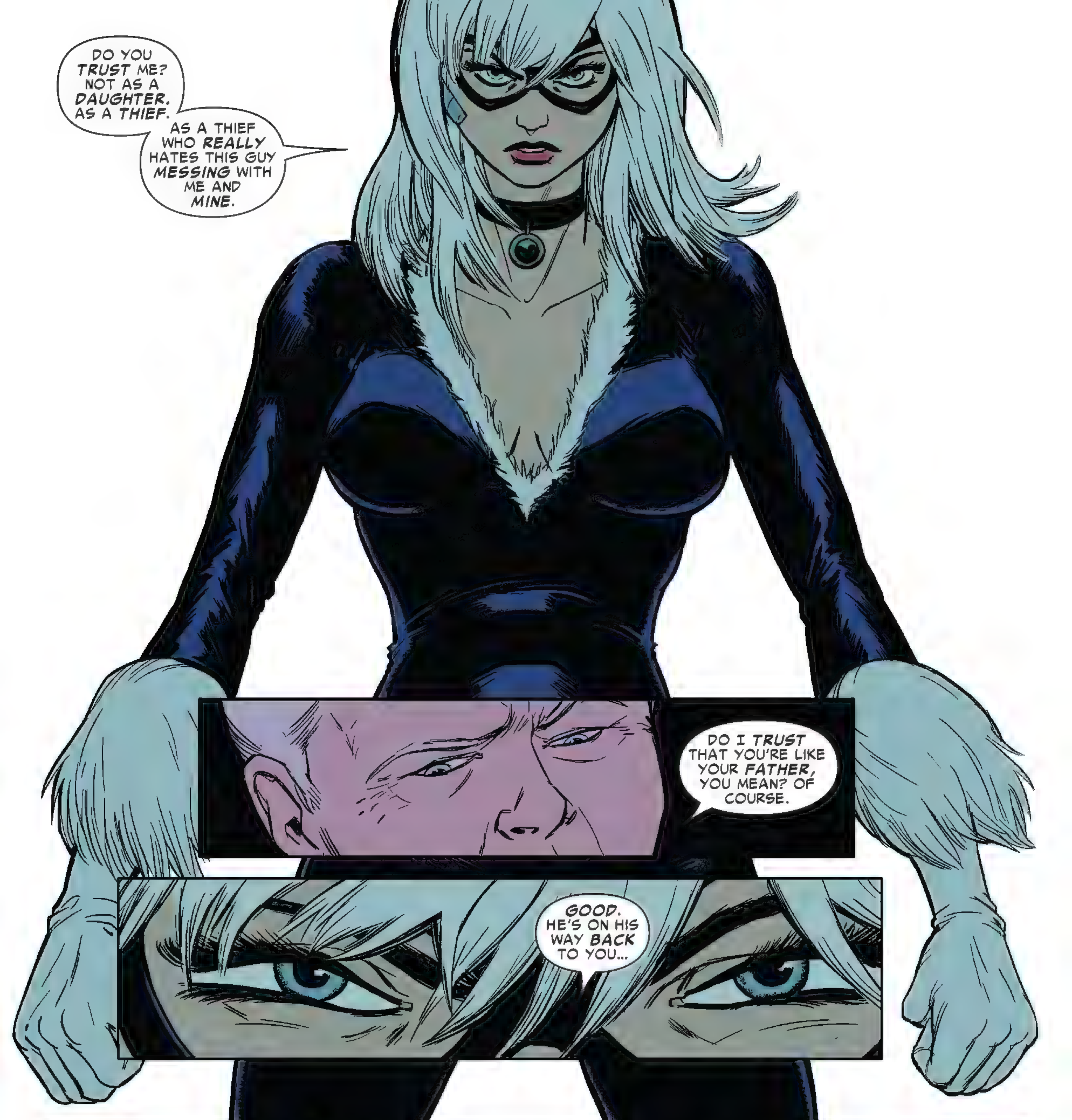
THAT'S EXACTLY IT. AND THAT'S WHY I--



HANG ON A SEC, MOM--HE'S HERE.



SORRY, MOM--GOTTA ASK YOU SOMETHING NOW--



DO YOU
TRUST ME?
NOT AS A
DAUGHTER.
AS A THIEF.

AS A THIEF
WHO REALLY
HATES THIS GUY
MESSING WITH
ME AND
MINE.



DO I TRUST
THAT YOU'RE LIKE
YOUR FATHER,
YOU MEAN? OF
COURSE.



GOOD.
HE'S ON HIS
WAY BACK
TO YOU...



SHE'S
INSIDE YOUR
STORAGE
UNIT RIGHT
NOW...

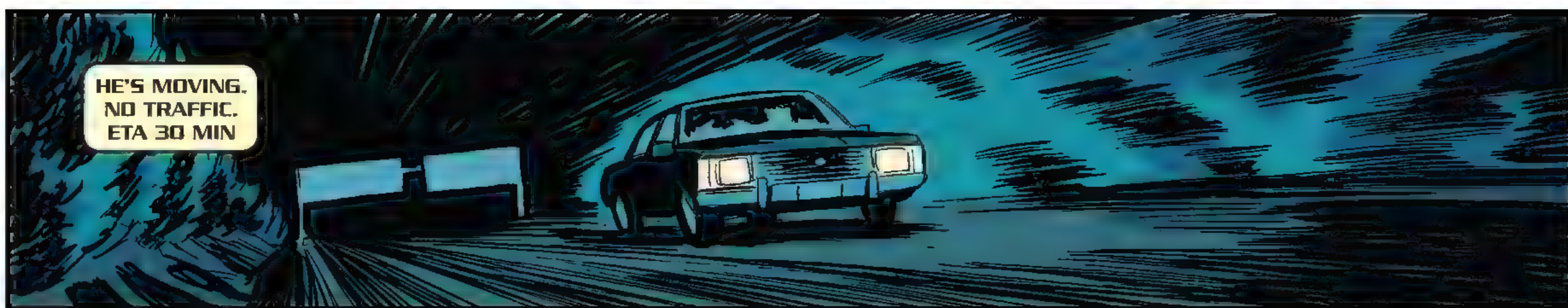
...AND SHE
KNOWS YOU
STILL NEED THE
SWORD.

To Be Continued...

VAN METER
RODRIGUEZ
PULIDO
HOLLINGSWORTH

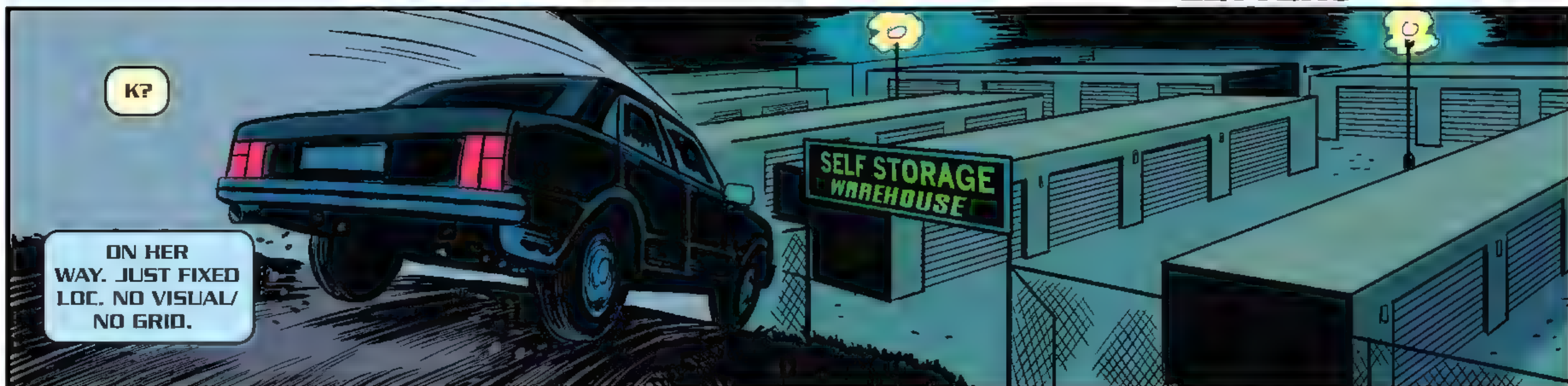
BLACK CAT





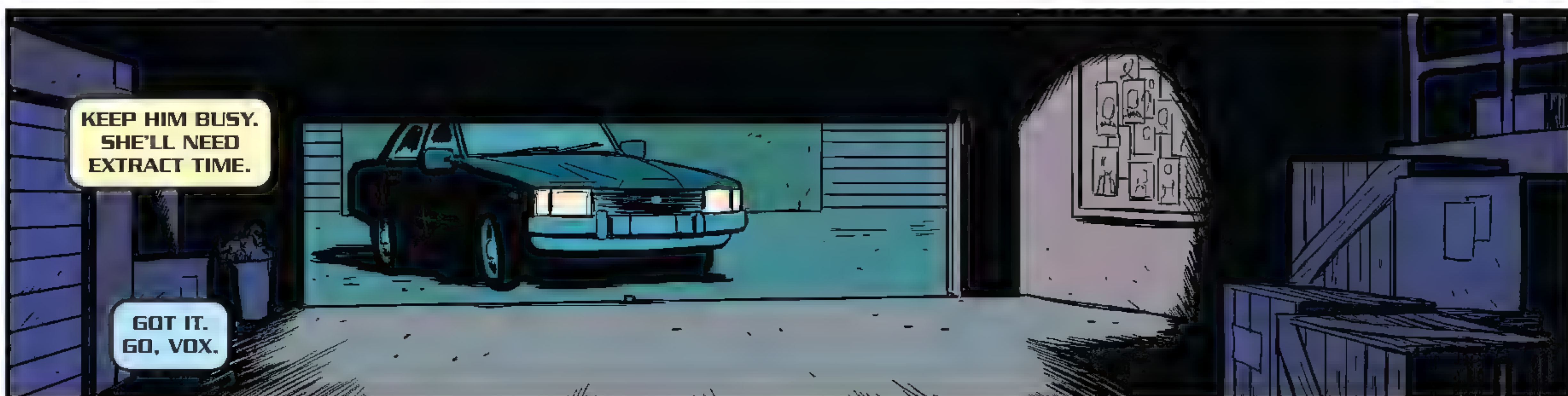
MATT HOLLINGSWORTH
w/ **JAVIER RODRIGUEZ**, pgs. 11-18
COLOR ART

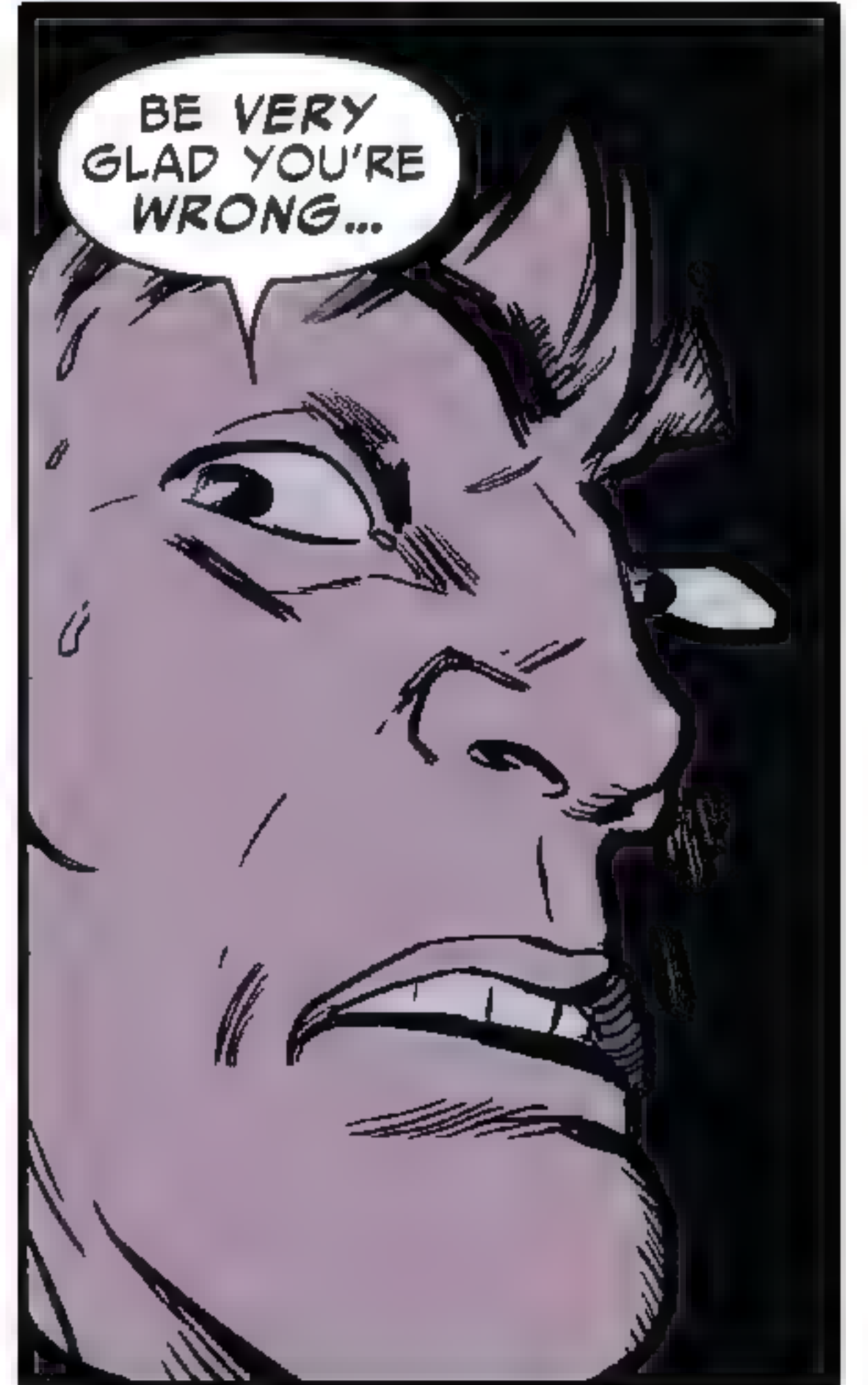
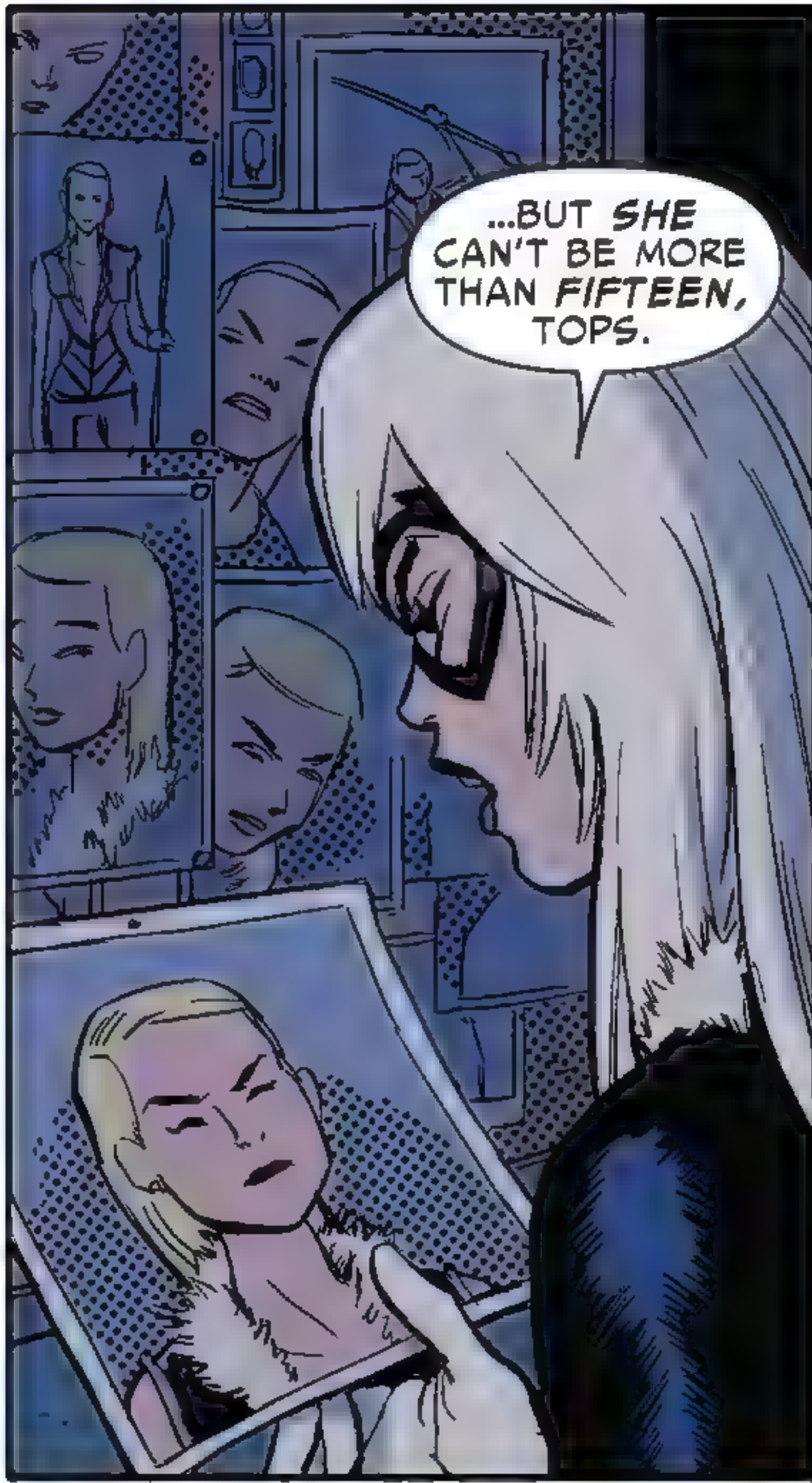
VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA
LETTERS



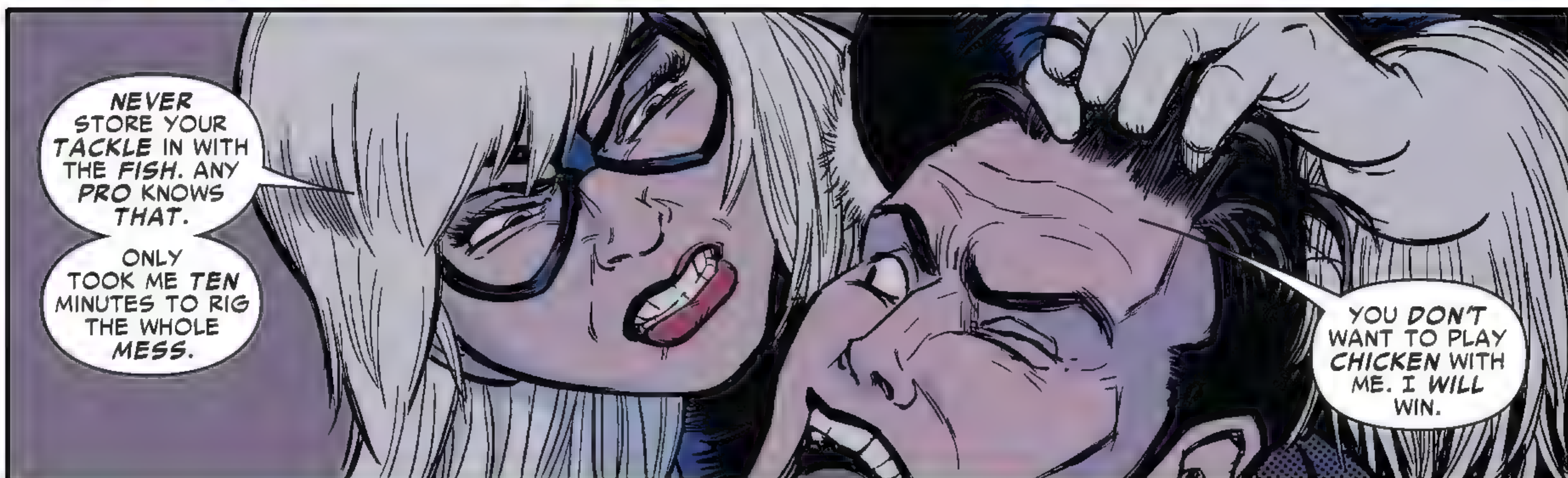
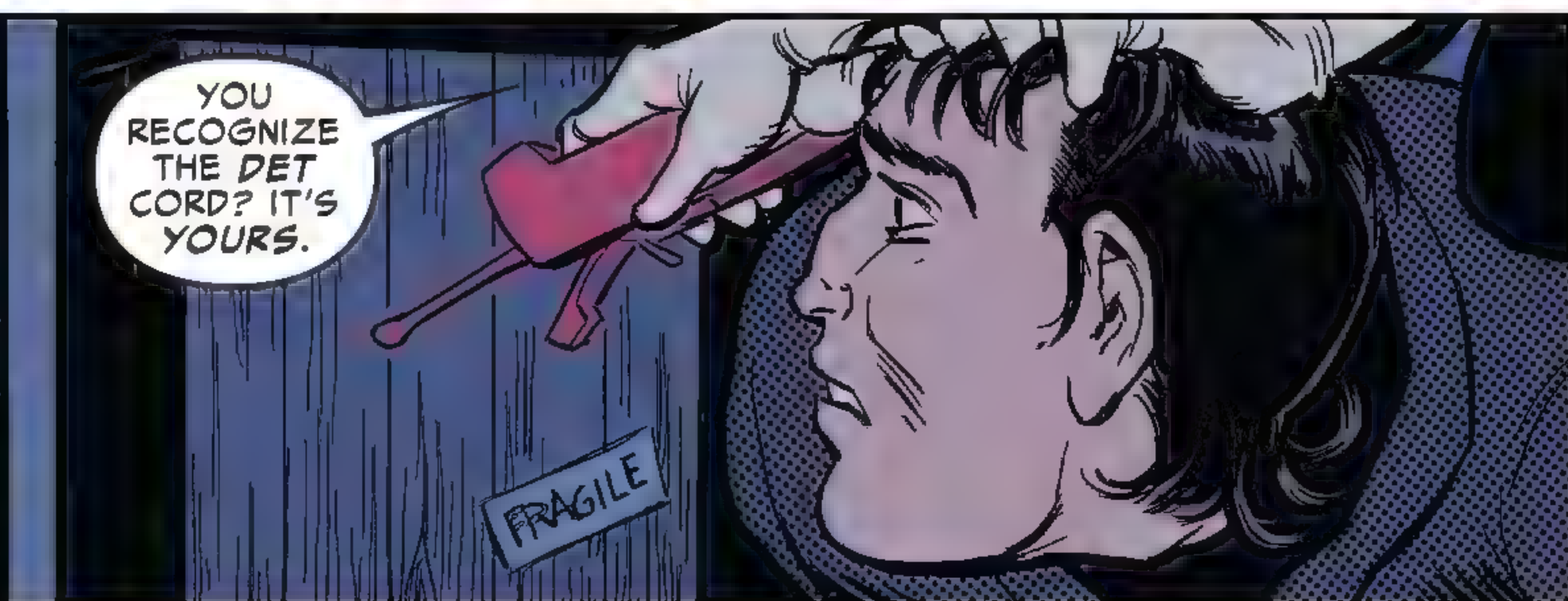
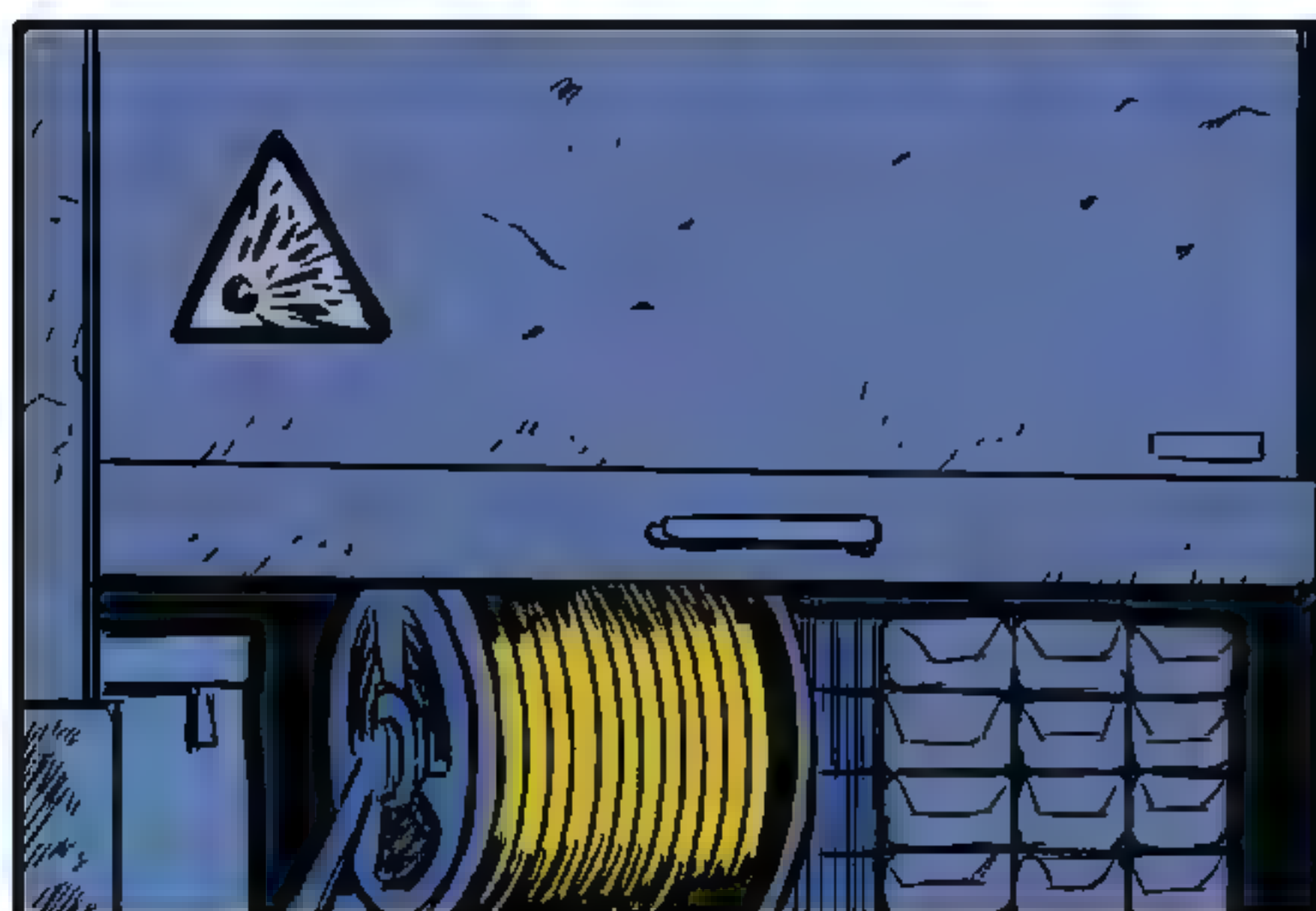
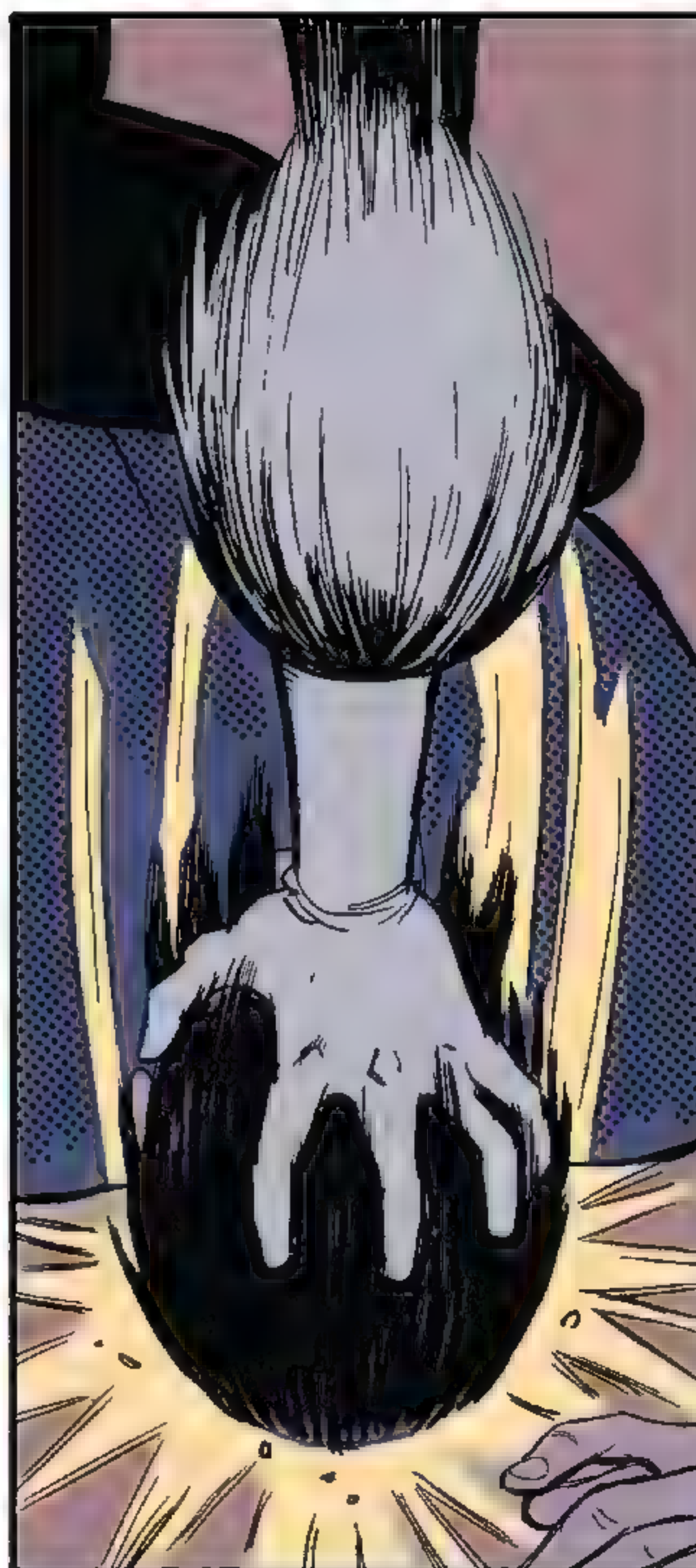
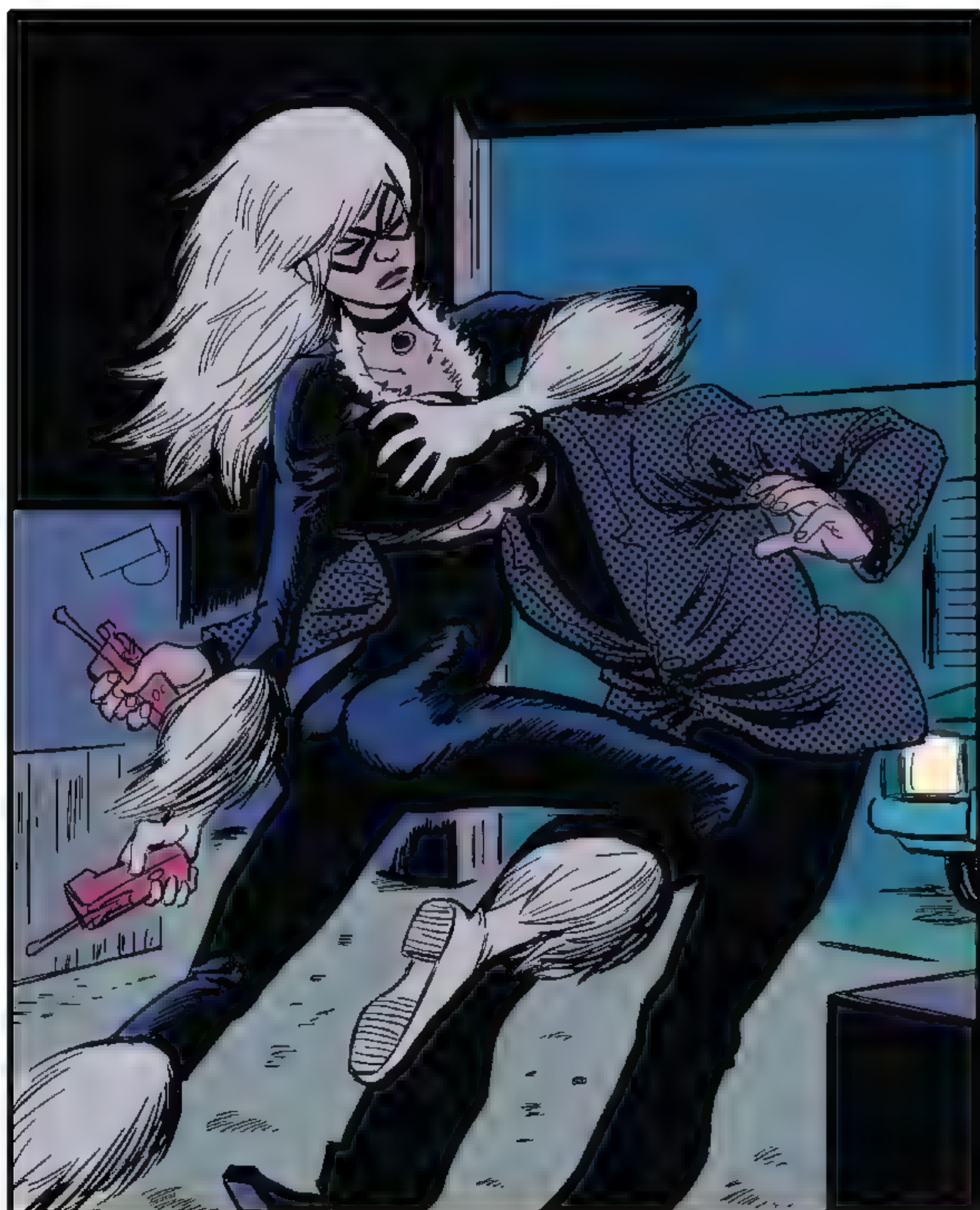
JEN VAN METER
WRITER

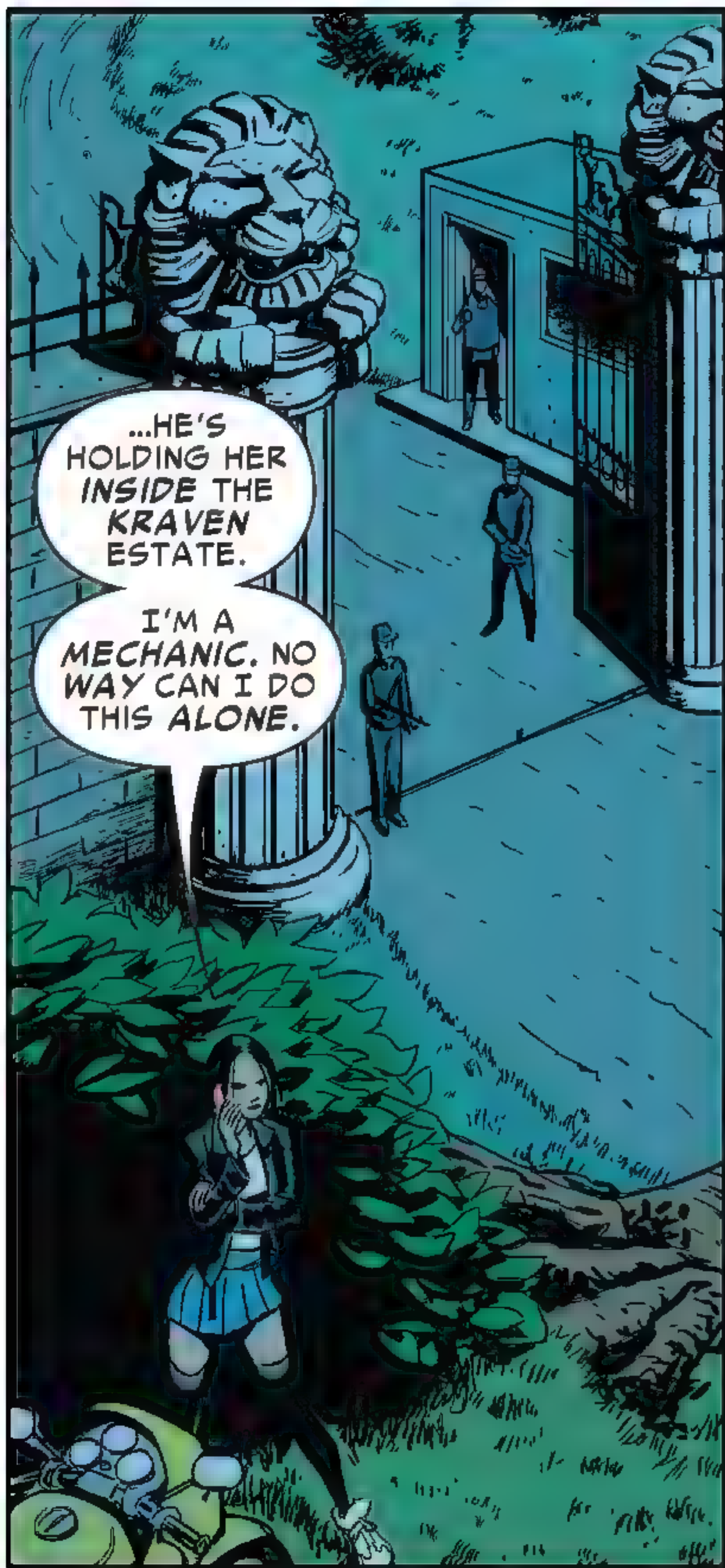
JAVIER RODRIGUEZ
w/ **JAVIER PULIDO**, pgs. 18-22
ARTIST











...HE'S
HOLDING HER
INSIDE THE
KRAVEN
ESTATE.

I'M A
MECHANIC. NO
WAY CAN I DO
THIS ALONE.



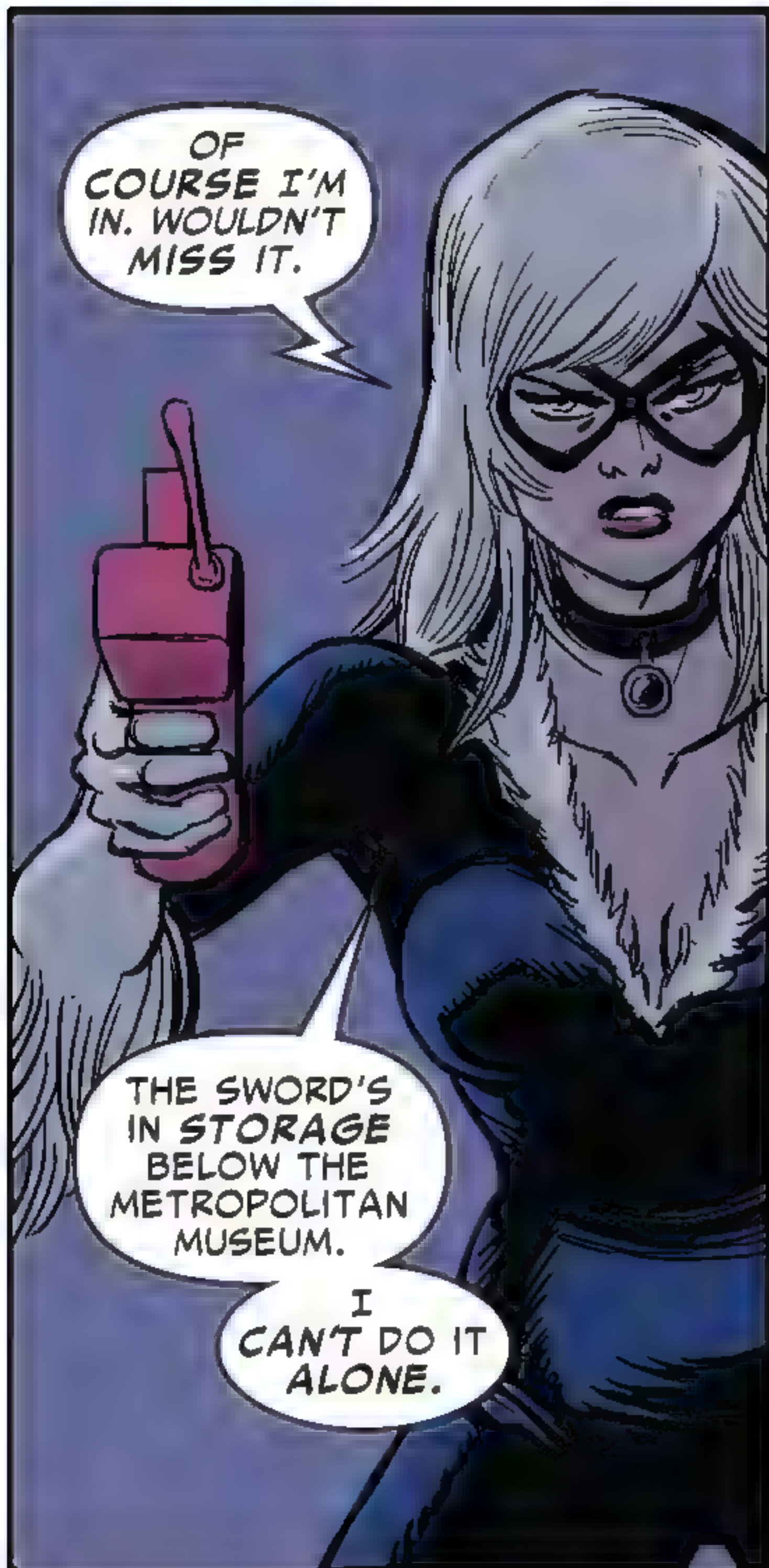
JUST GET
ME THE SWORD,
AND WE CAN
END THIS.

DO ANY OF
YOU REMEMBER
FLEMING...



...HOW HE
GOT THE
BOTTICELLIS IN
EIGHTY-TWO?

IT'S
TRICKY, BUT
WE COULD SET
IT UP FAST.
YOU IN,
KYOKO?



OF
COURSE I'M
IN. WOULDN'T
MISS IT.

THE SWORD'S
IN STORAGE
BELOW THE
METROPOLITAN
MUSEUM.

I
CAN'T DO IT
ALONE.



SO
YOU'LL HAVE
TO HELP.

GO
LOOK AFTER
MY MOM--I'LL
CALL YOU. BUT
REMEMBER...



...PEOPLE
WHO MESS WITH
ME SOMETIMES
HAVE VERY
BAD LUCK.

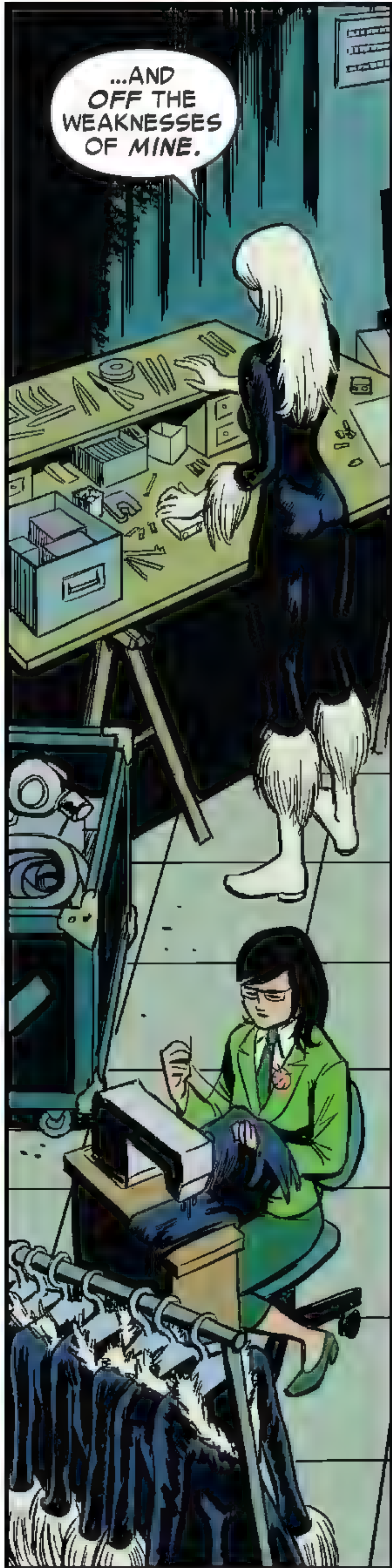
AND I'M
ONE HELL OF A
PICKPOCKET.

"THINK HE
BOUGHT IT?"



DUNNO. IF HE DID, HE'LL PROBABLY RIG A WHOLE NEW SET-UP ON HER.

BUT IT KEEPS HIS MIND ON THE STRENGTH OF HIS POSITION...

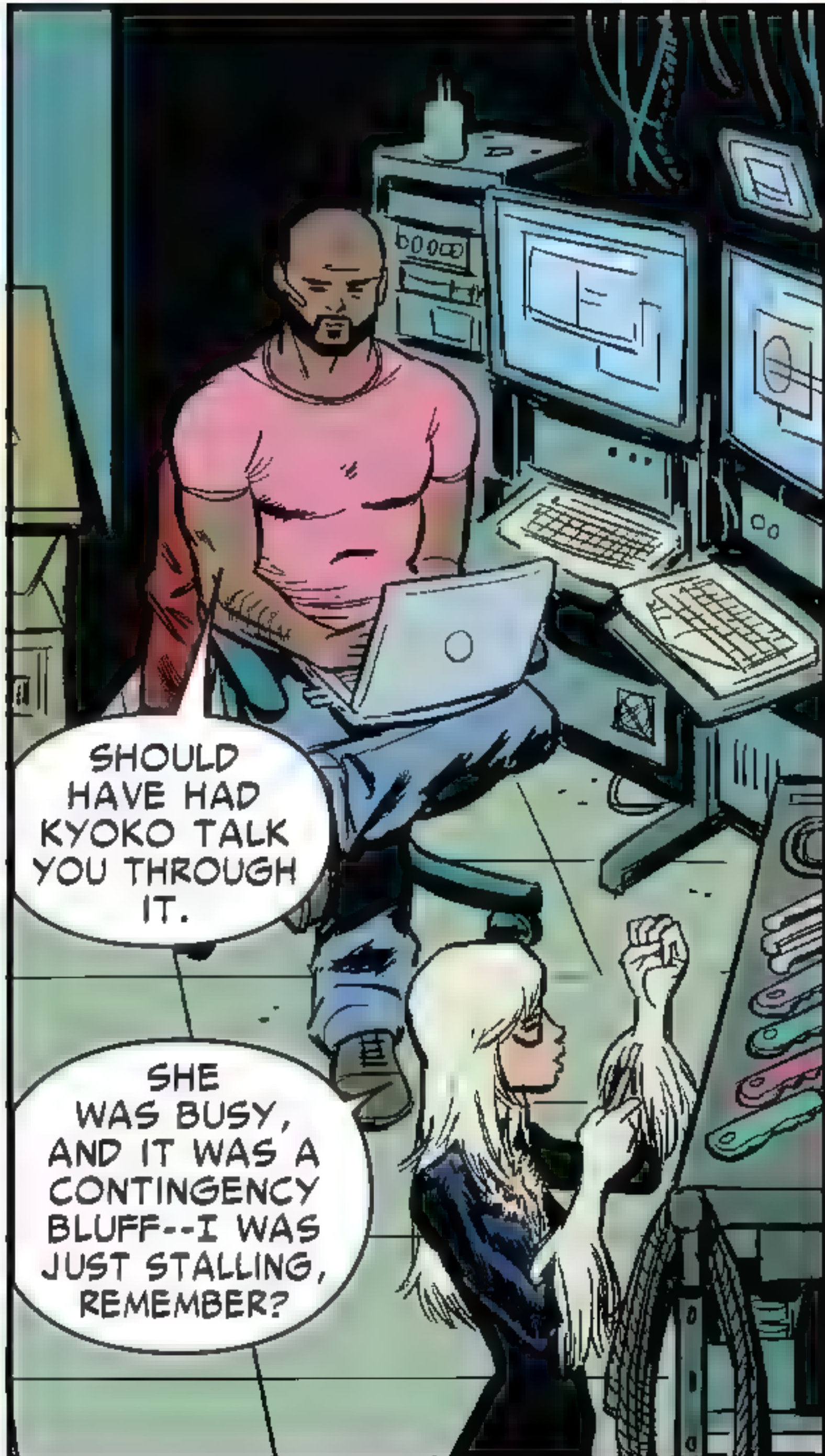


...AND OFF THE WEAKNESSES OF MINE.



YOU MEAN YOU WOULDN'T BLOW UP THE GOODS JUST TO MAKE A POINT?

I MEAN, I COULDN'T. HIS COMPONENTS ARE ALL THIS YEAR'S PURN-CZYKKI, AND I DON'T HAVE THOSE SPECS DOWN TOO WELL.



SHOULD HAVE HAD KYOKO TALK YOU THROUGH IT.

SHE WAS BUSY, AND IT WAS A CONTINGENCY BLUFF--I WAS JUST STALLING, REMEMBER?



SHAKE THE TONE, BOSS. IT'LL BE OKAY. WE'LL GET YOUR MOM BACK.

WE HIT A LITTLE SNAG, WE'RE COMING AT IT FROM ANOTHER ANGLE IS ALL.

I'M NOT A HUGE FAN OF THE ANGLE.



FLEMING LOST TWO PEOPLE GETTING THE BOTTICELLIS, YOU KNOW.

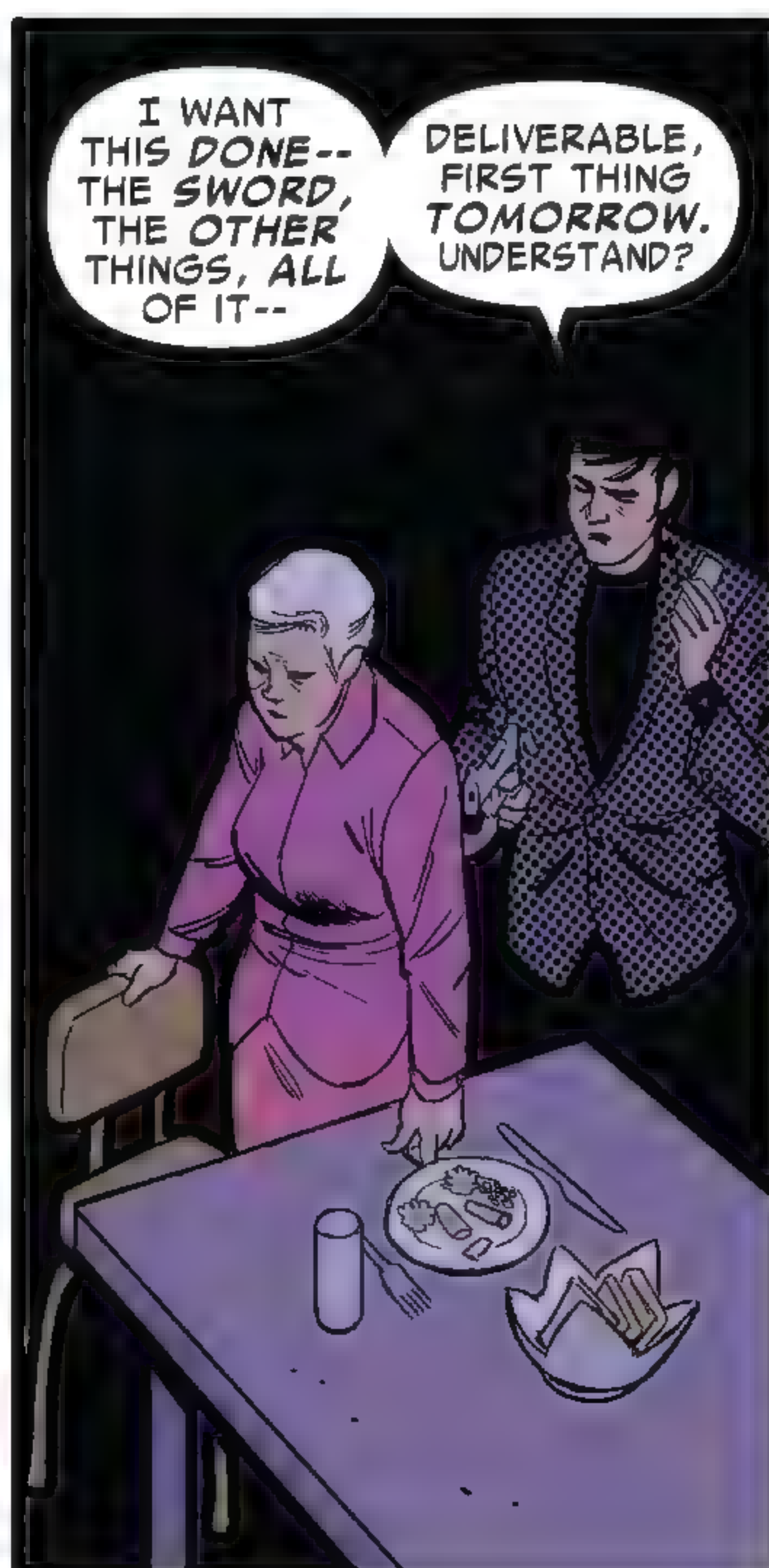
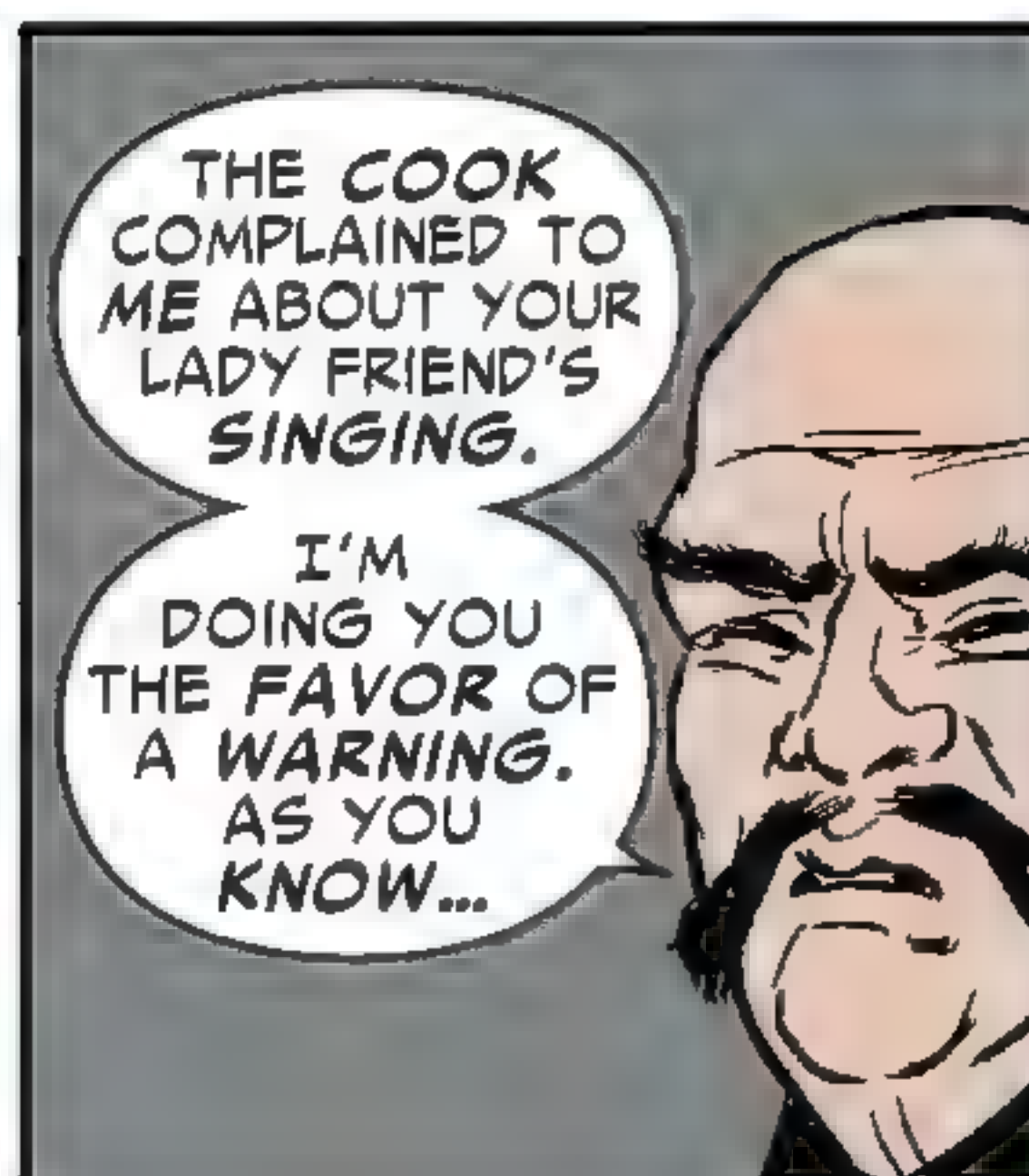
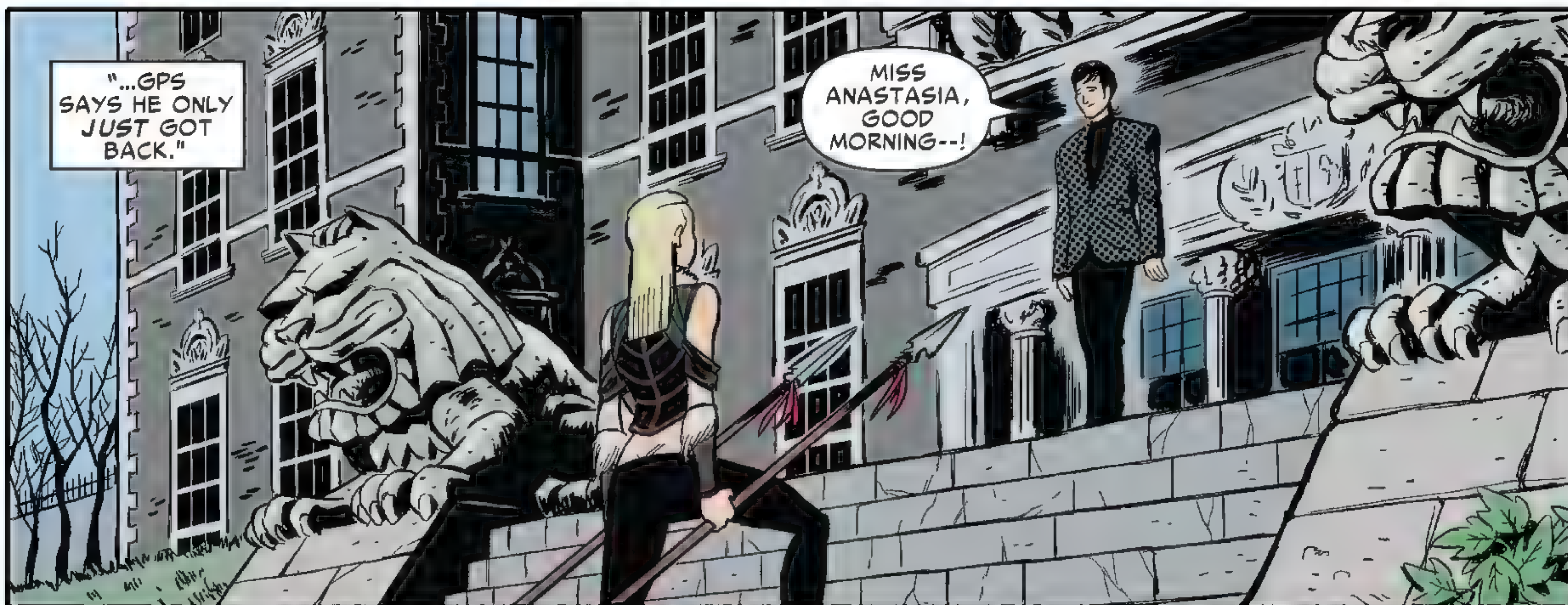


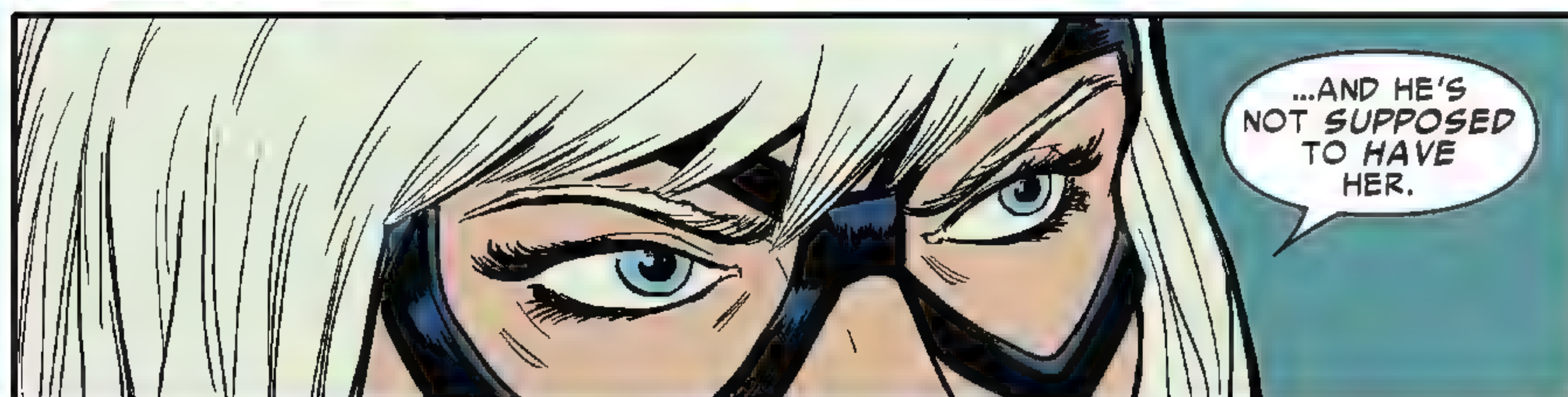
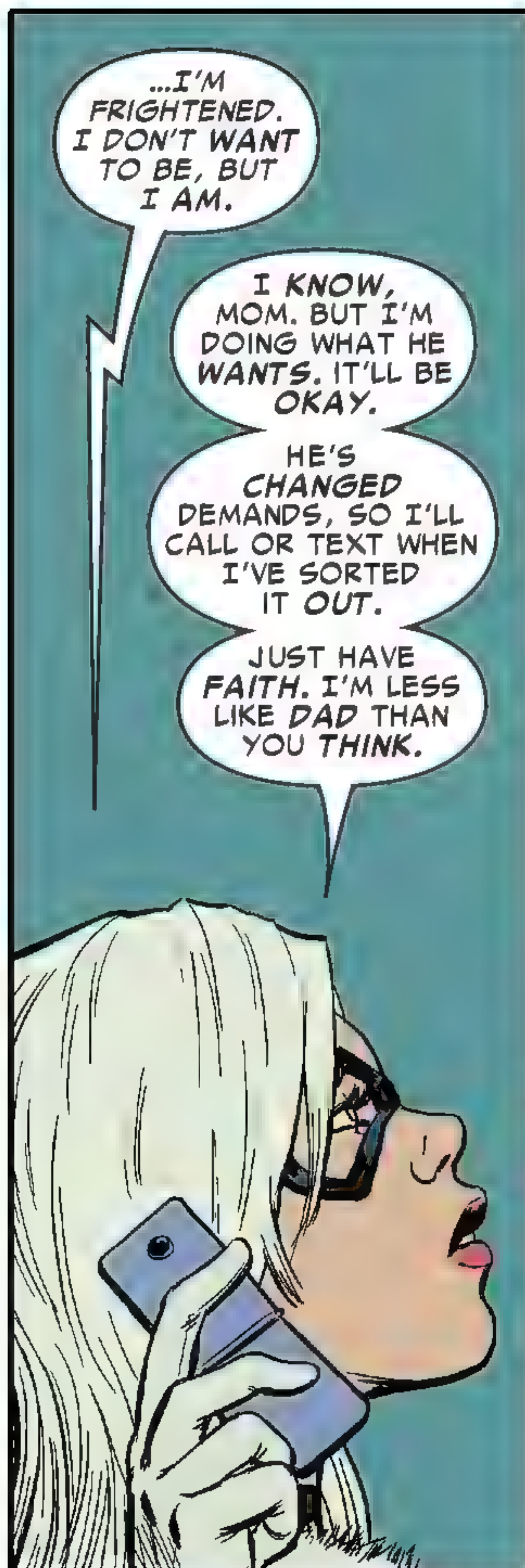
HOW IS THE GLOVE FEELING? THE SEAMS MIGHT BE STIFF, UNDER THE ARMS.

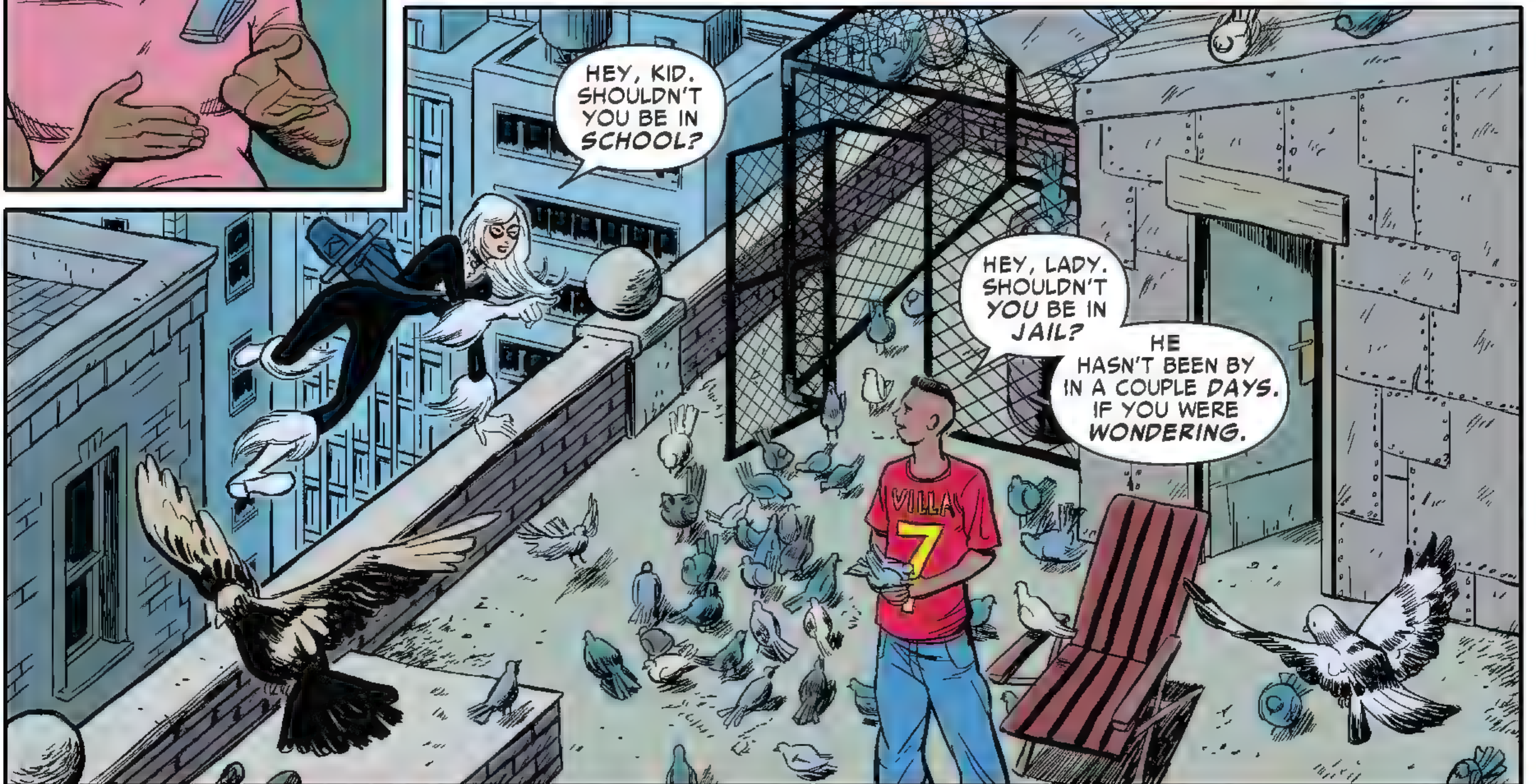
IT'S FINE, TAMI. FULL RANGE.

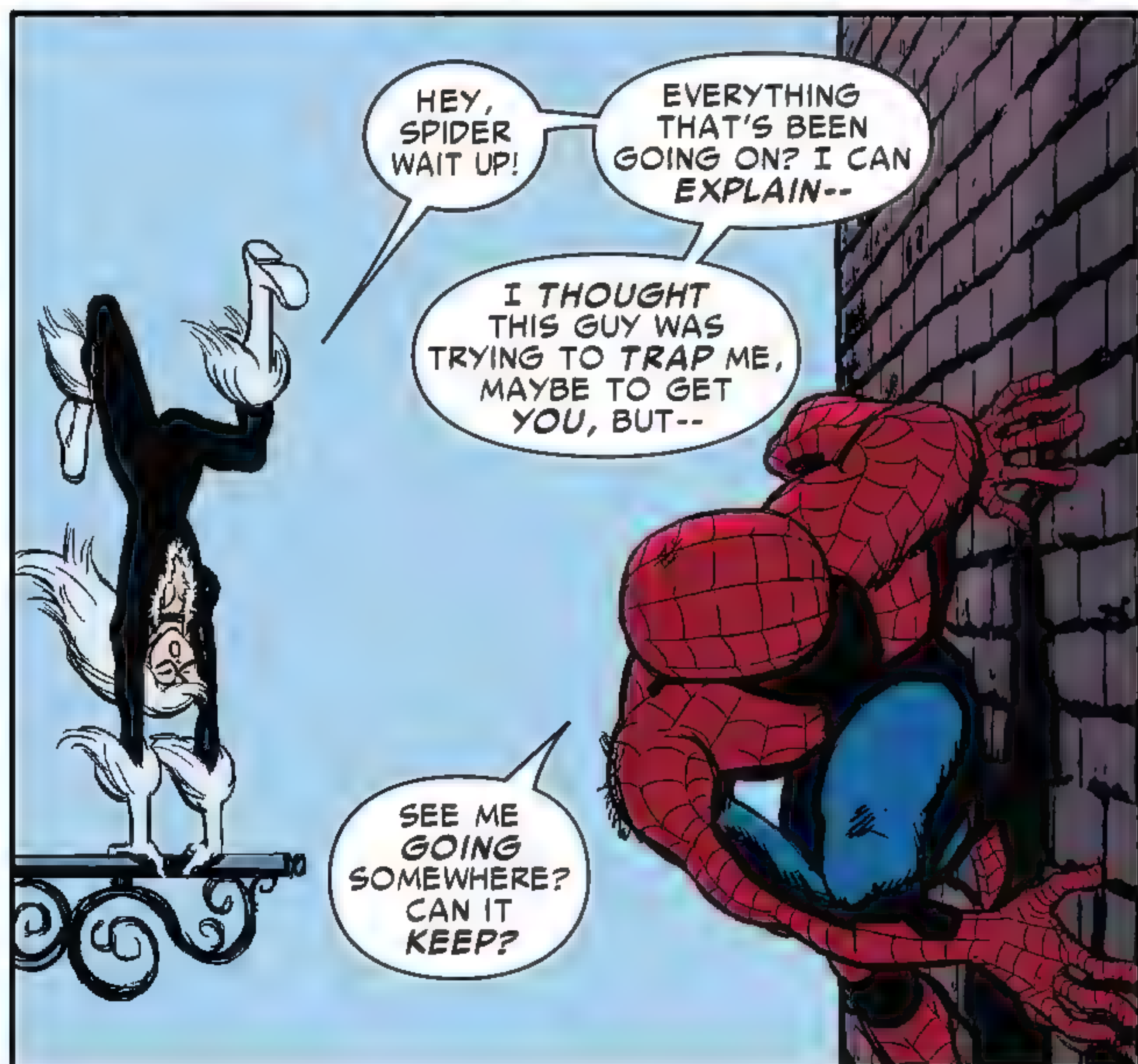
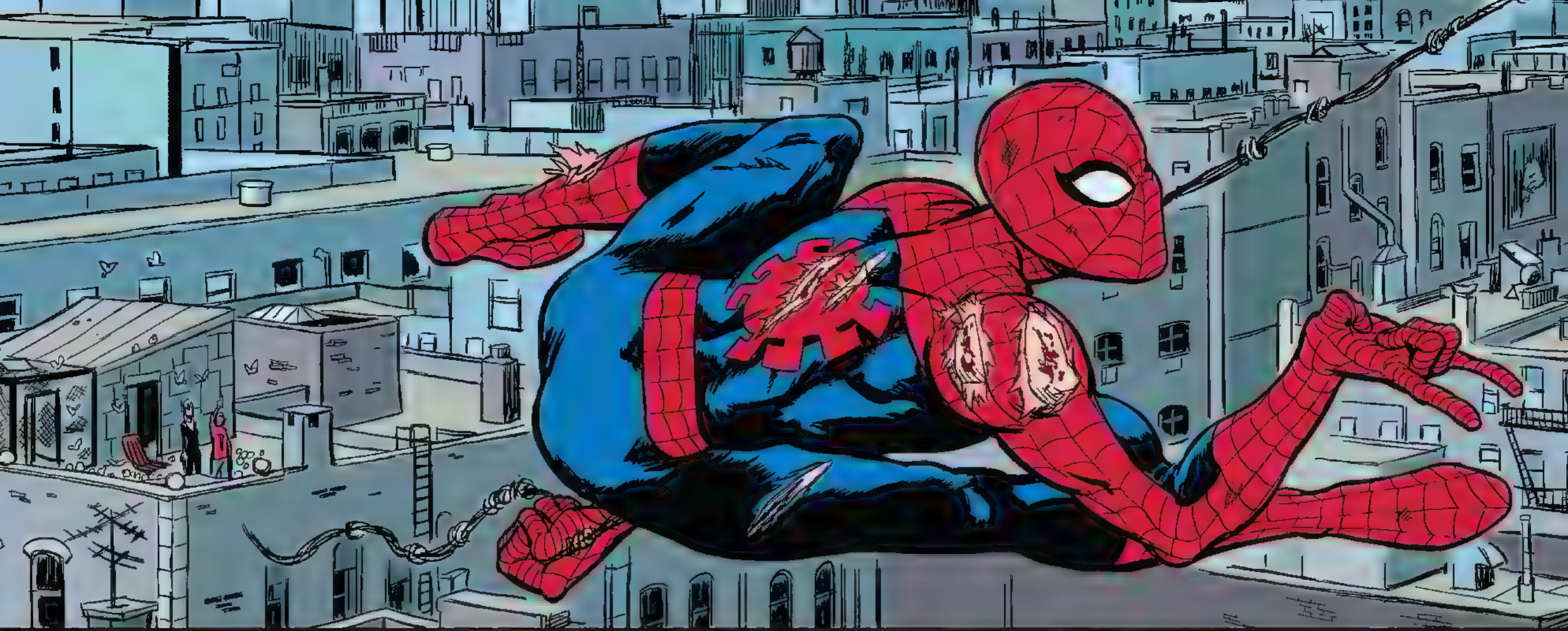
I SHOULD CALL HIM. ISN'T IT TIME?

GIVE IT A FEW MINUTES...











...WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS BEFORE?

A JOB LIKE THIS--PLANNED AND EXECUTED IN UNDER A DAY--YOU THINK I HAD TIME TO GET YOU EVERY DETAIL?

THESE ARE THE PAPERS YOU'LL NEED. YOU PARK YOUR CAR WHERE I TOLD YOU?



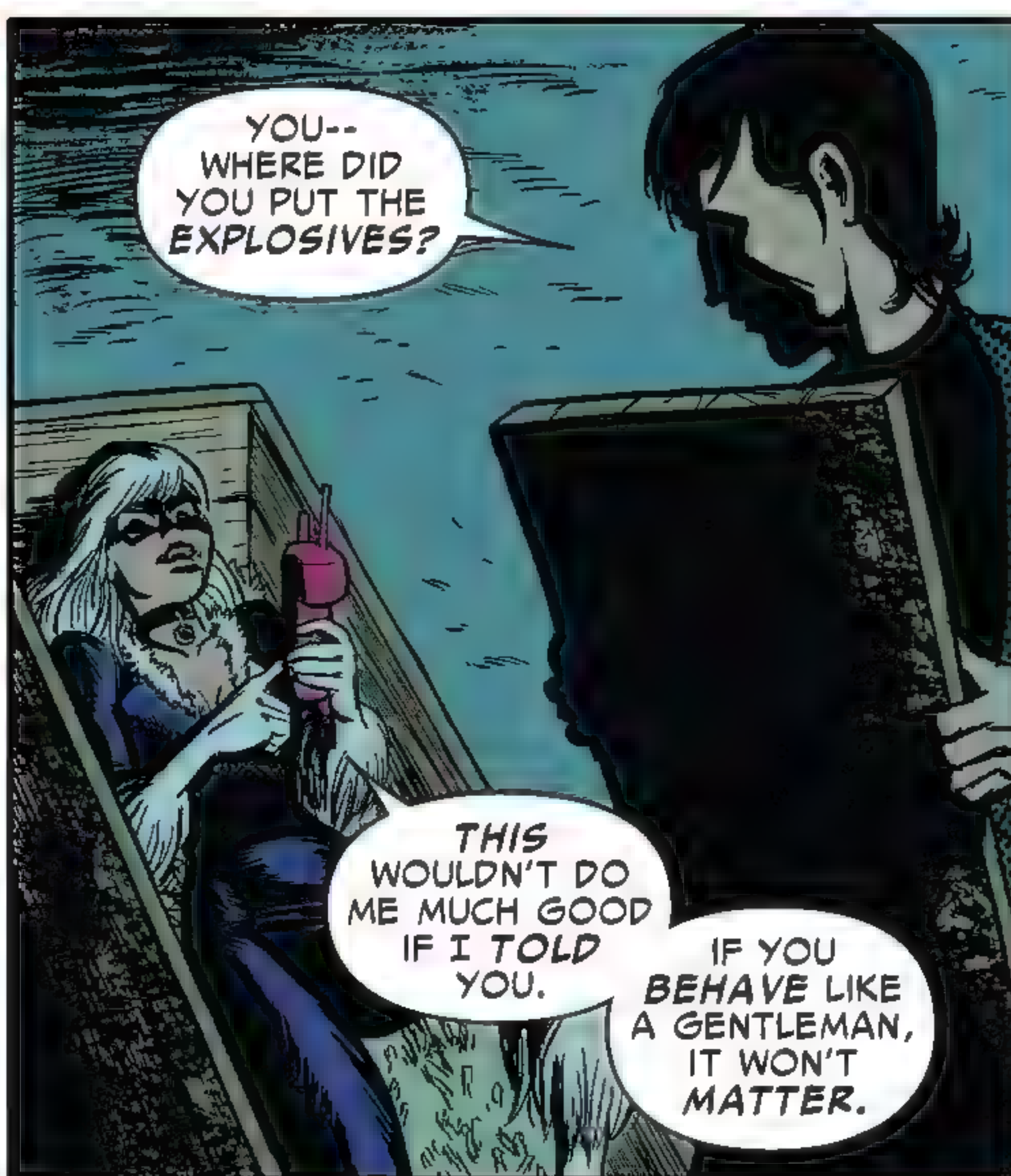
YES.

KLATTER
VRRRRRRM
CLANK

GOOD. WHEN I SAY, YOU'LL BRING IT AROUND TO THE EAST DRIVE ACCESS ROAD.

SOUNDS LIKE YOUR VAN'S HERE--

TAKE EVERYTHING. YOU CAN'T COME BACK.



YOU-- WHERE DID YOU PUT THE EXPLOSIVES?

THIS WOULDN'T DO ME MUCH GOOD IF I TOLD YOU.

IF YOU BEHAVE LIKE A GENTLEMAN, IT WON'T MATTER.



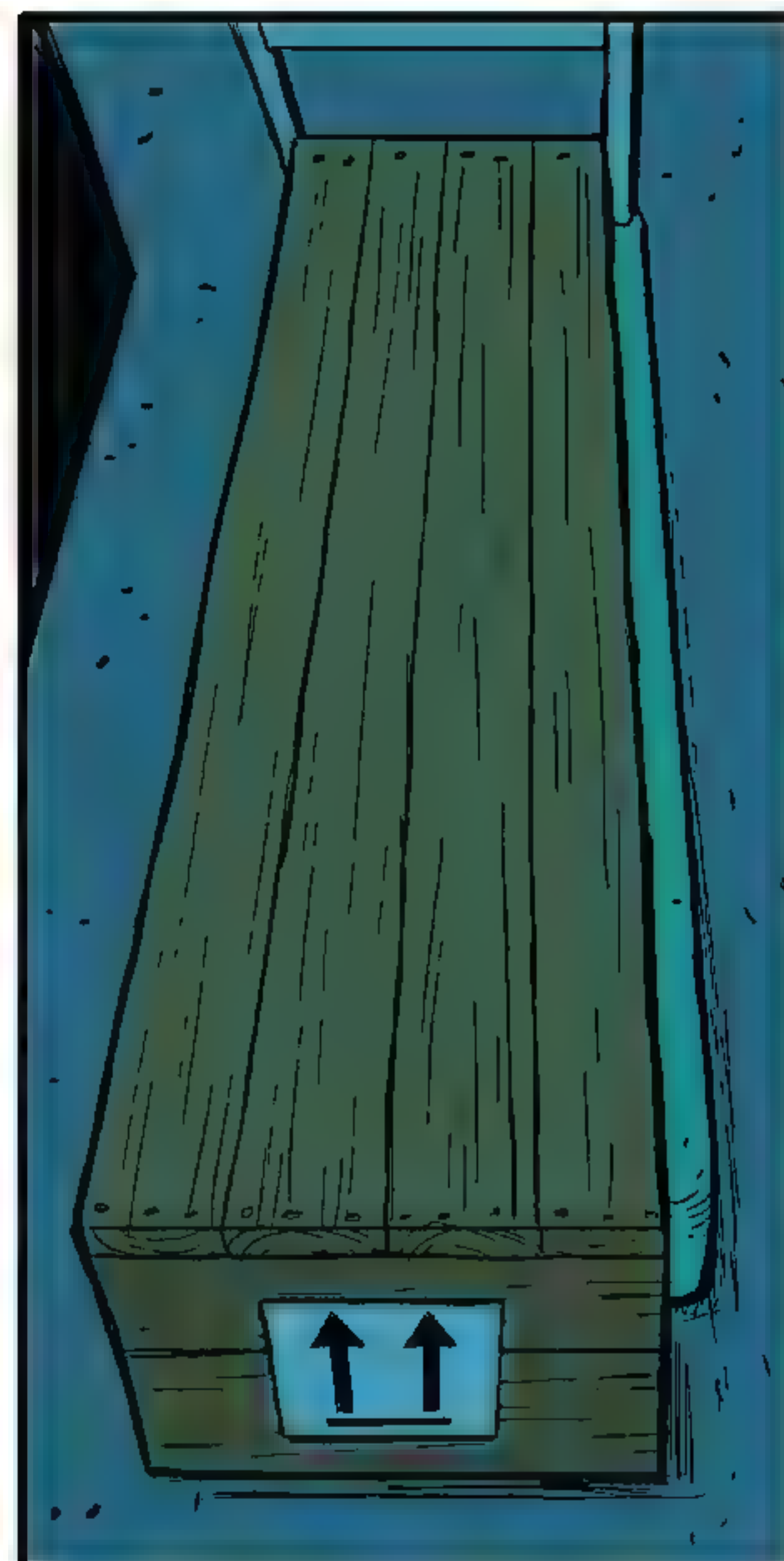
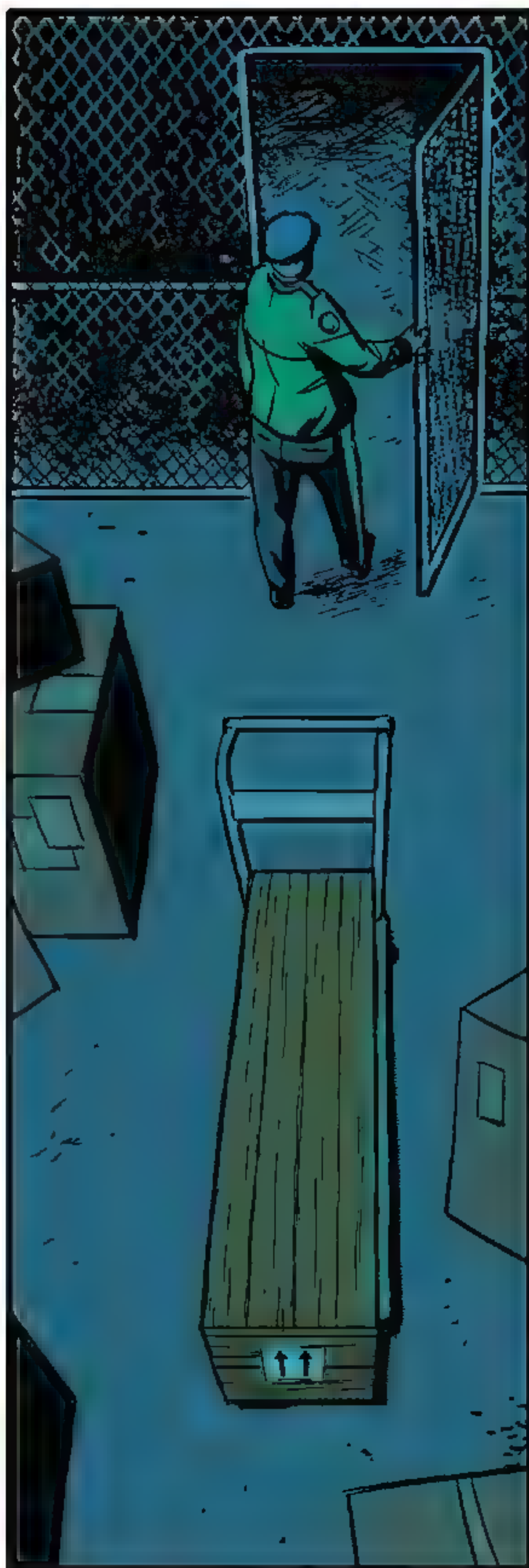
EVENING. YOU HOLOPKOV? WHERE YOU NEED US TO START?

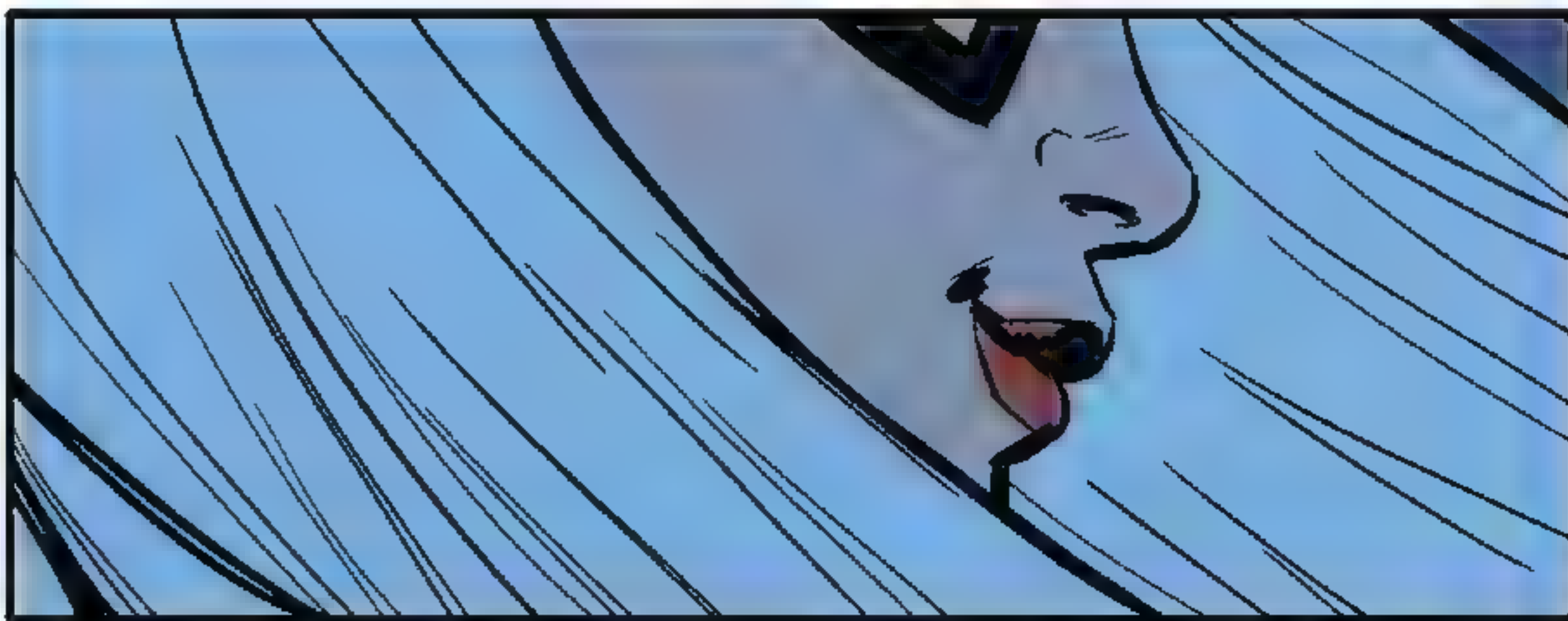
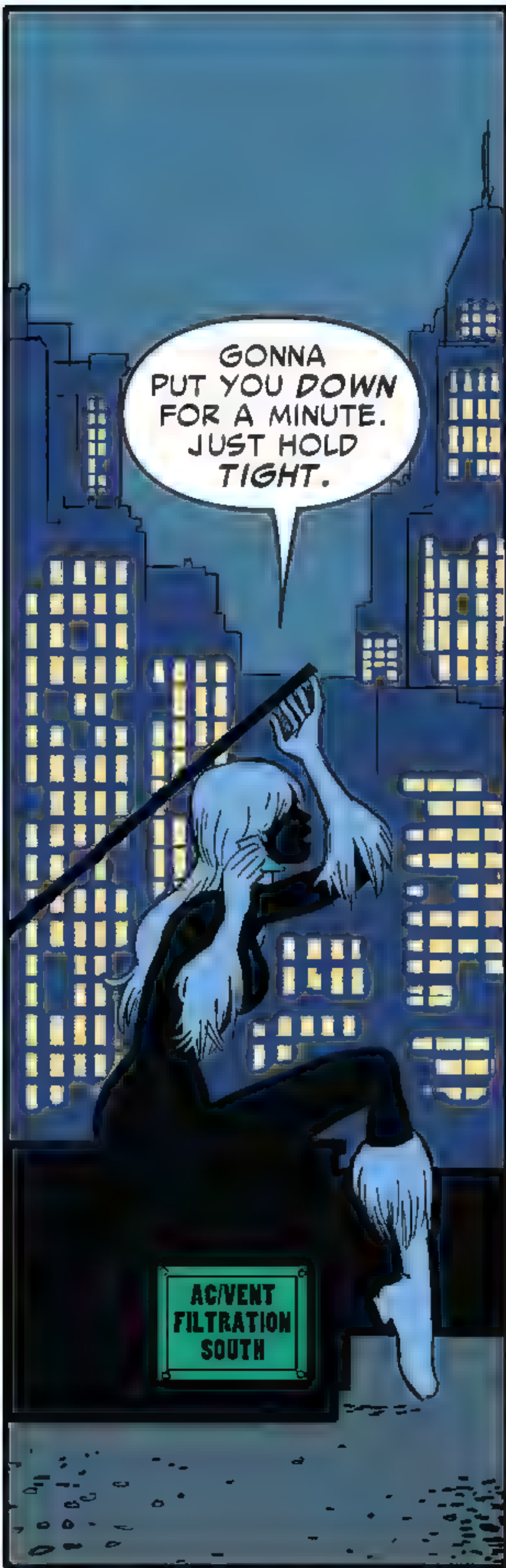
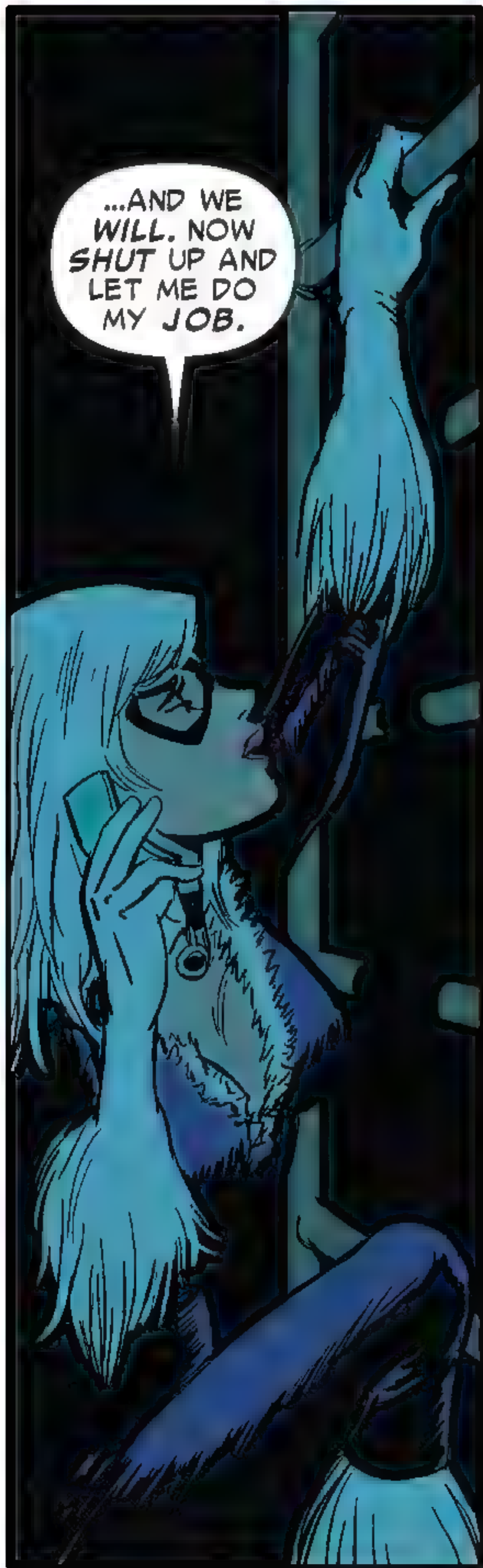
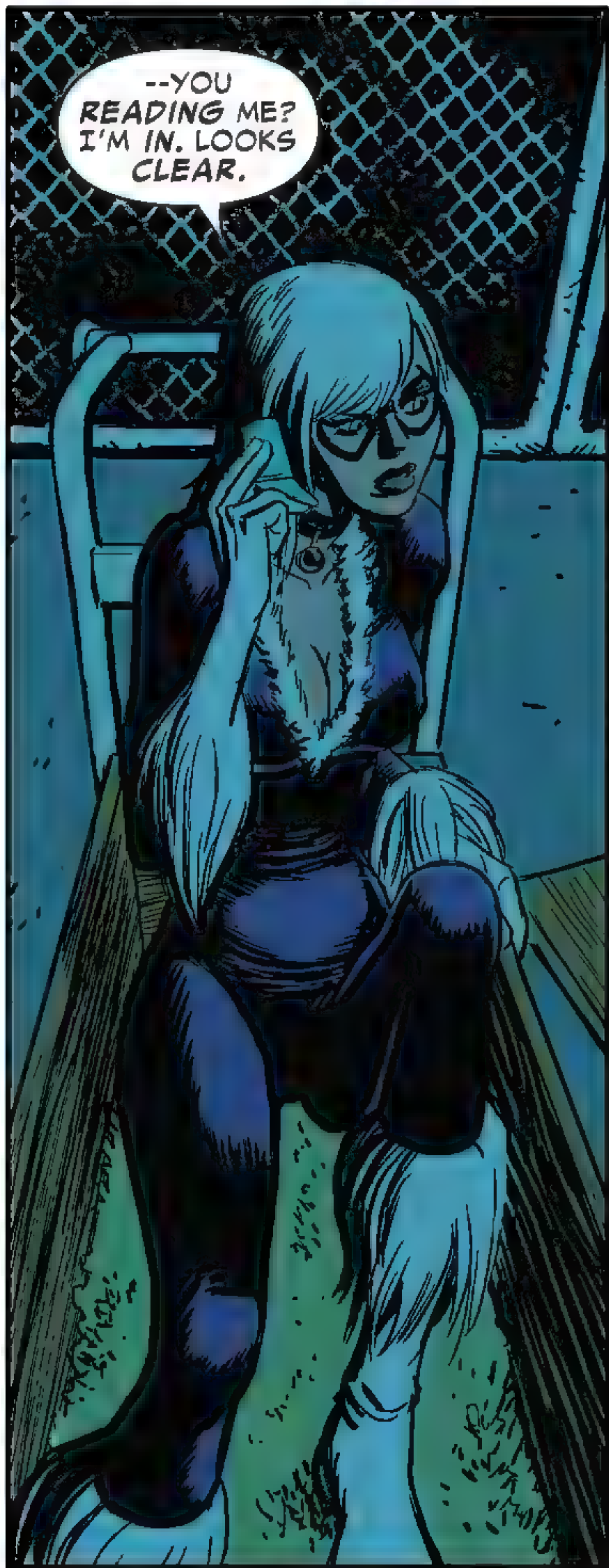


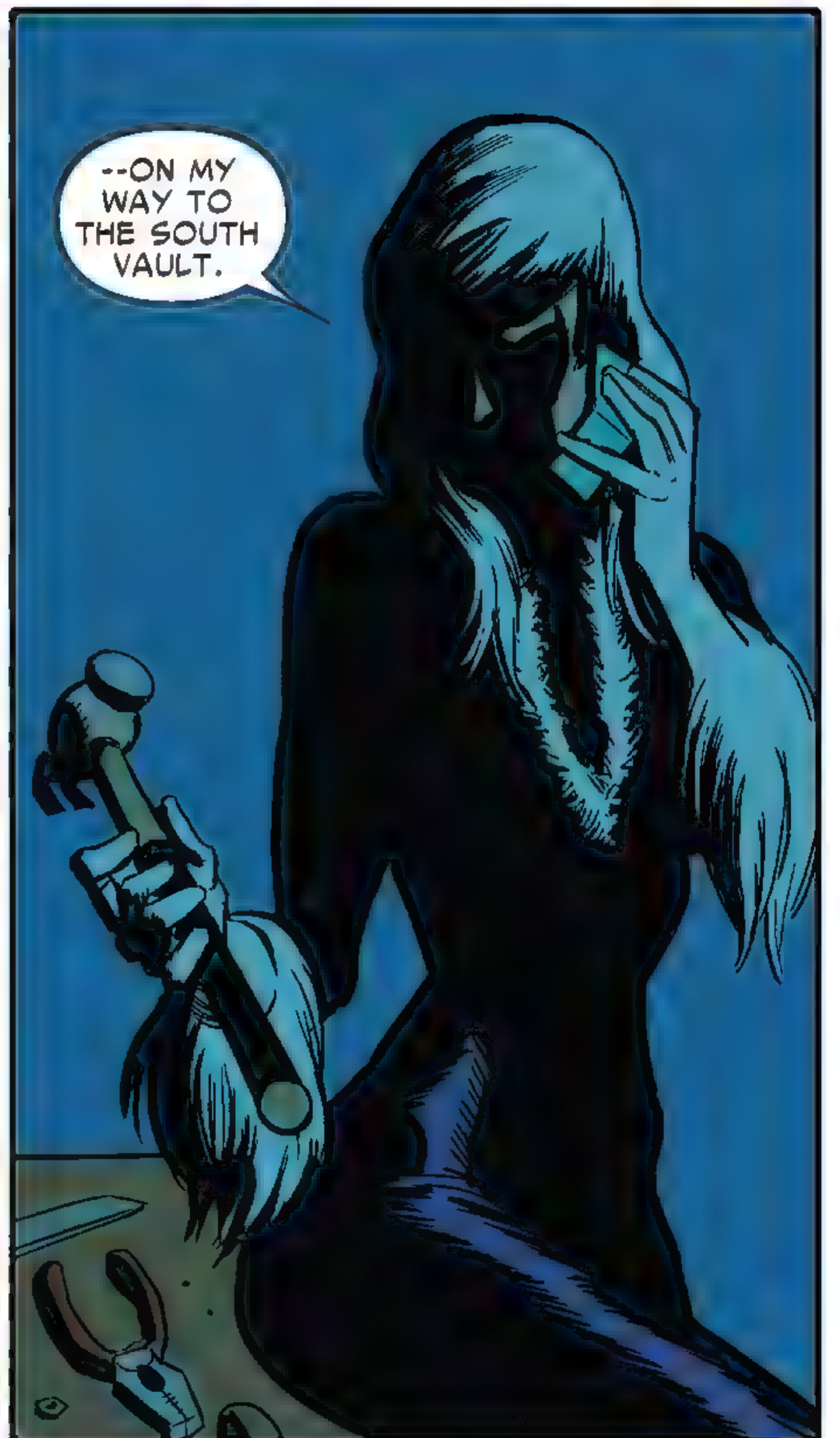
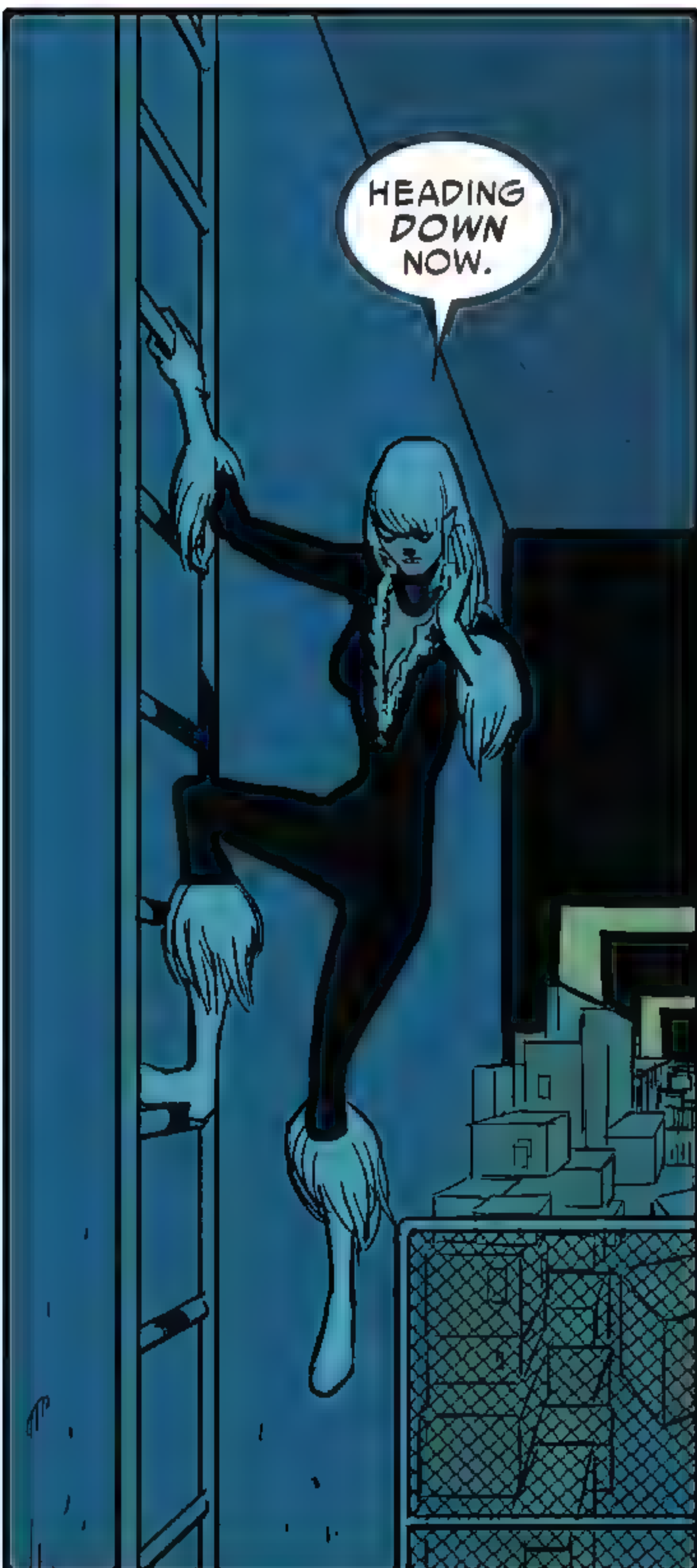
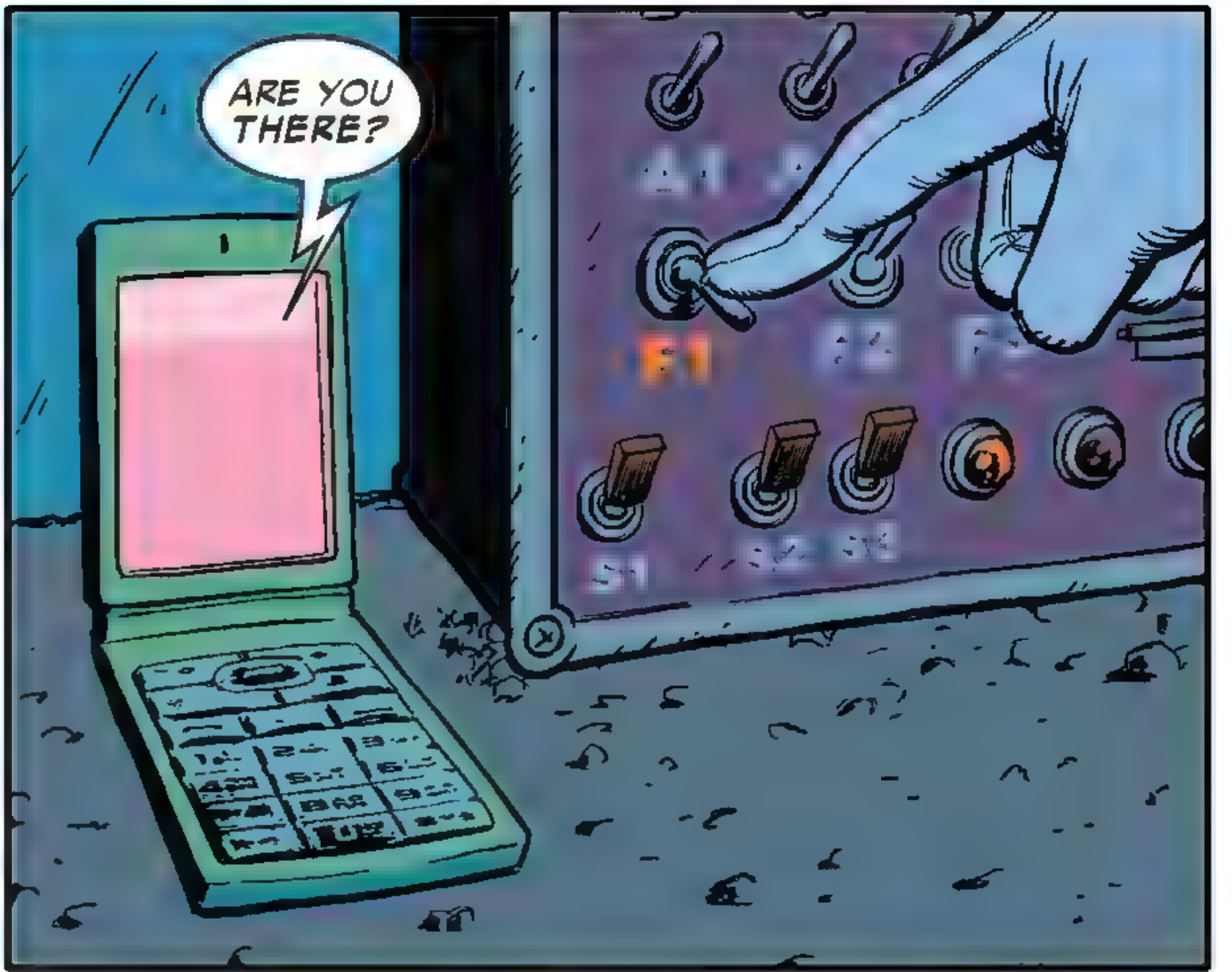
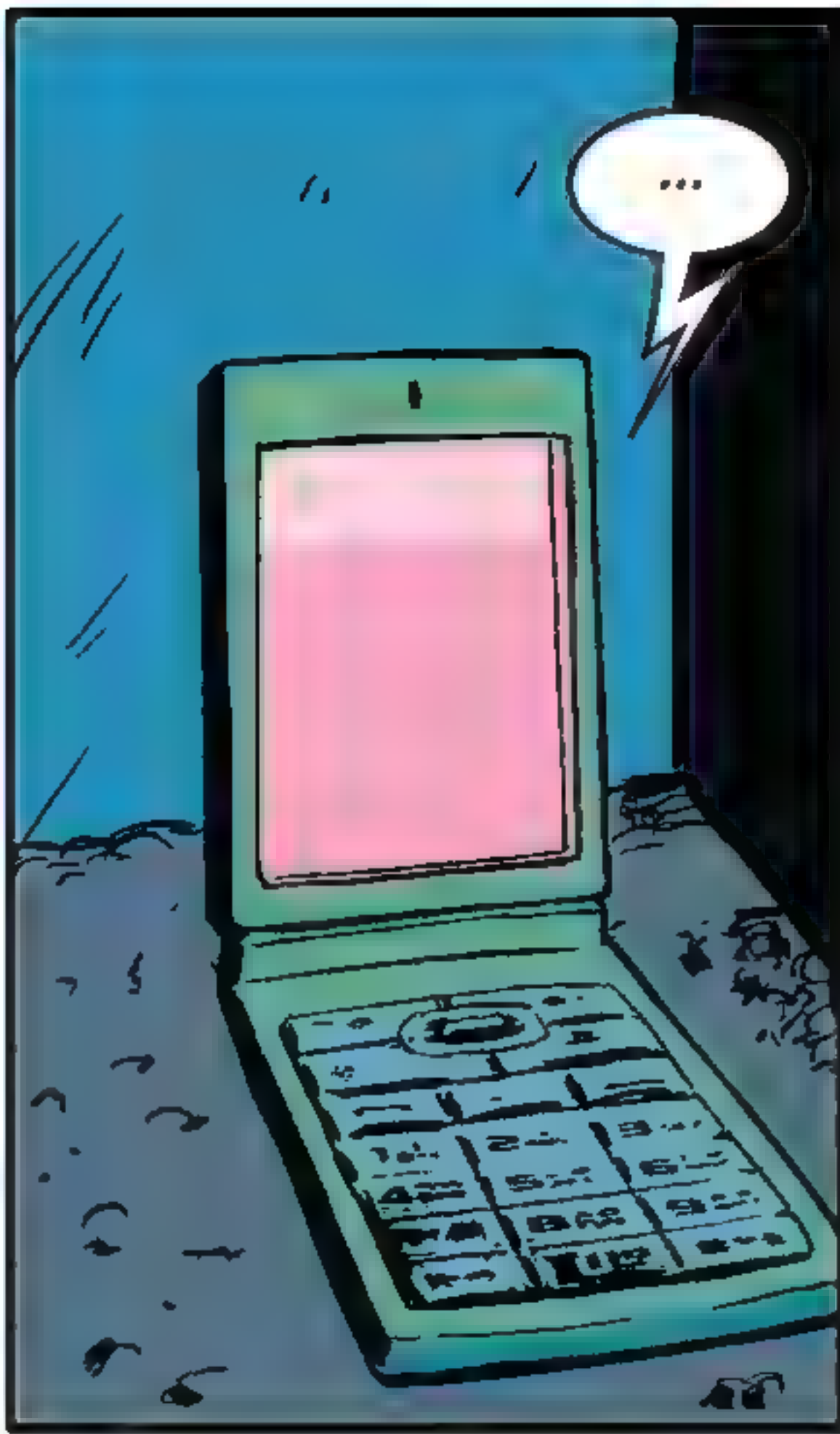
IT ALL GOES. THIS ONE LAST. AND PLEASE BE CAREFUL...



"...EVERYTHING HERE, WELL--IT'S MY WHOLE LIFE."



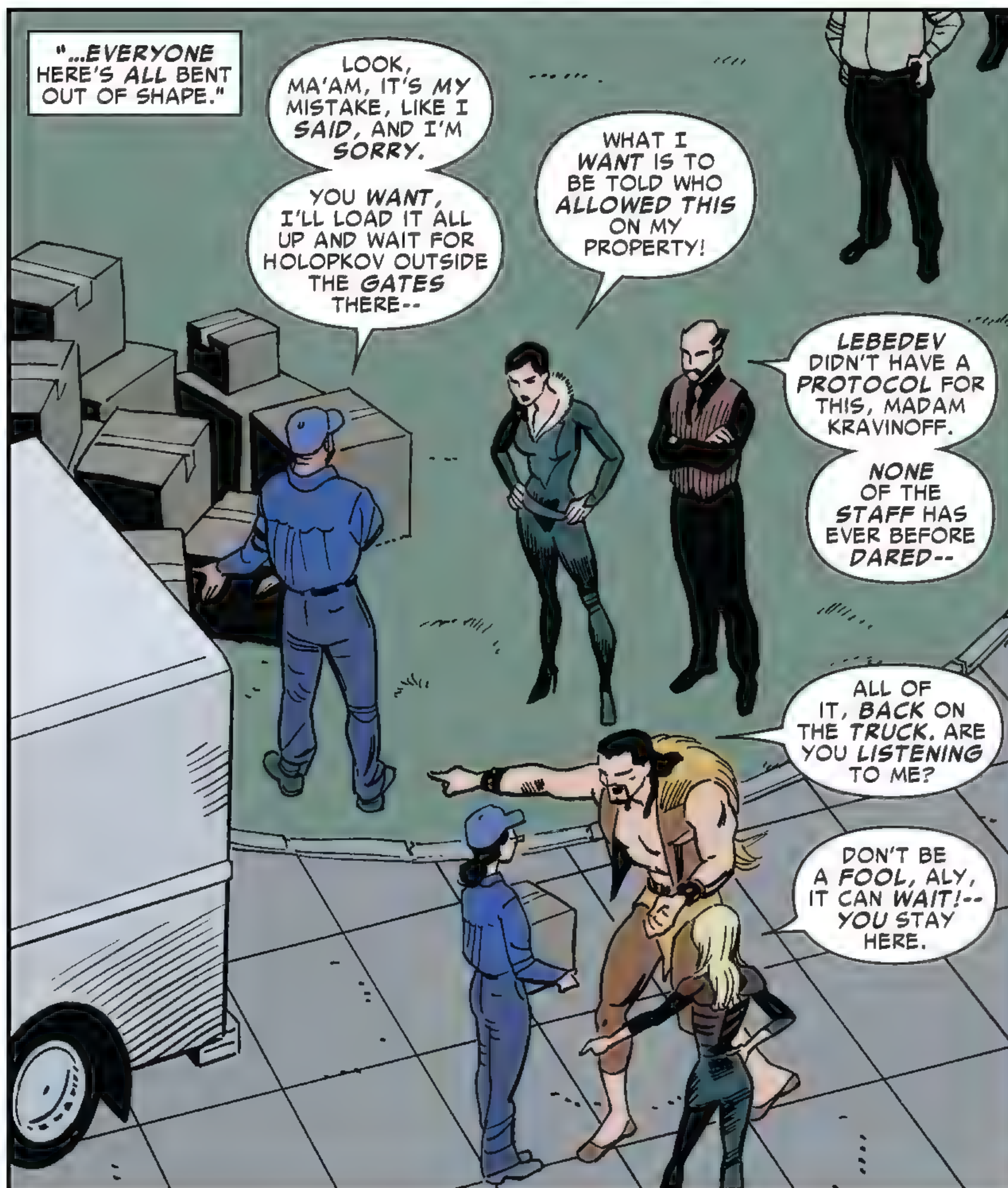


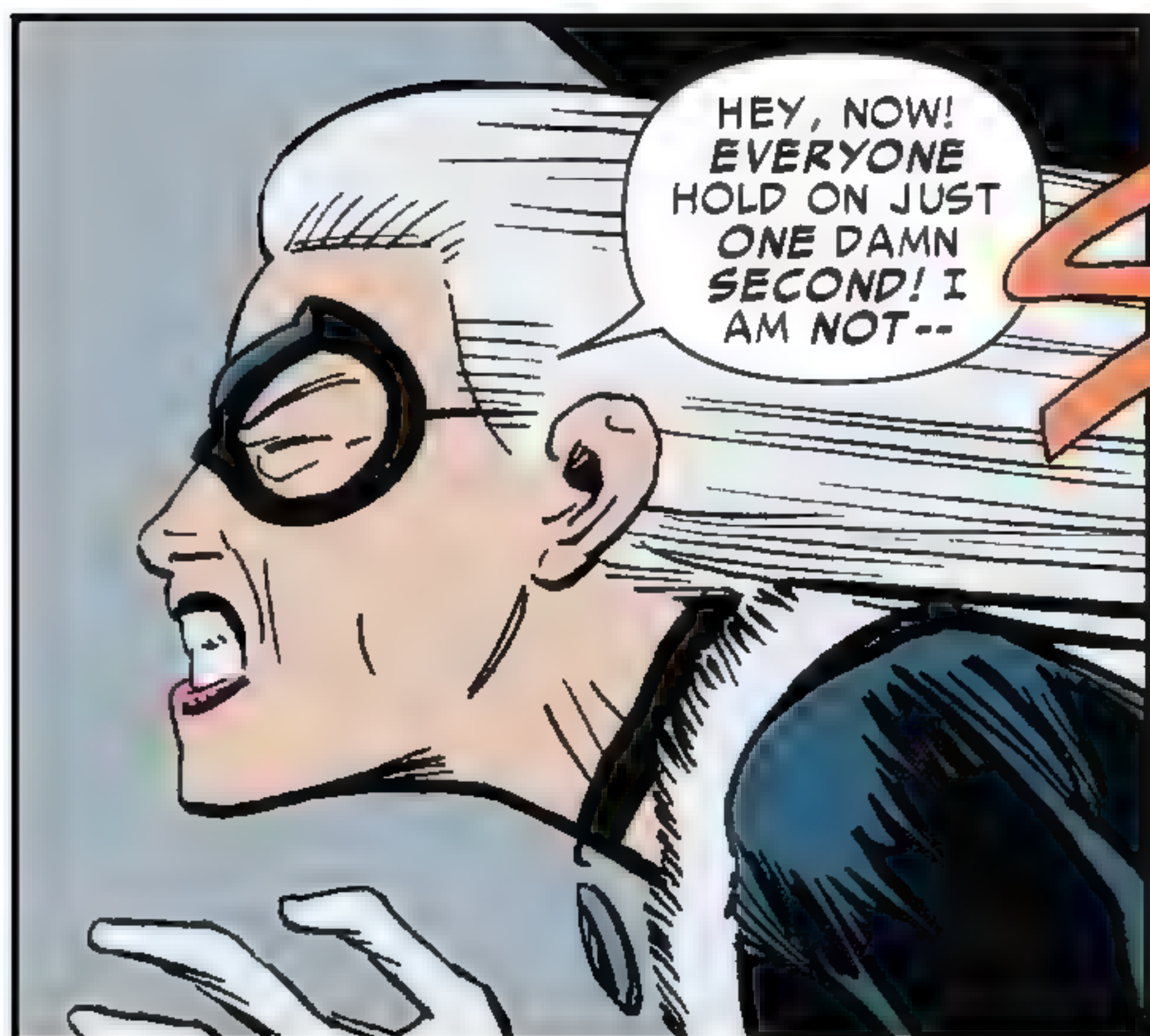
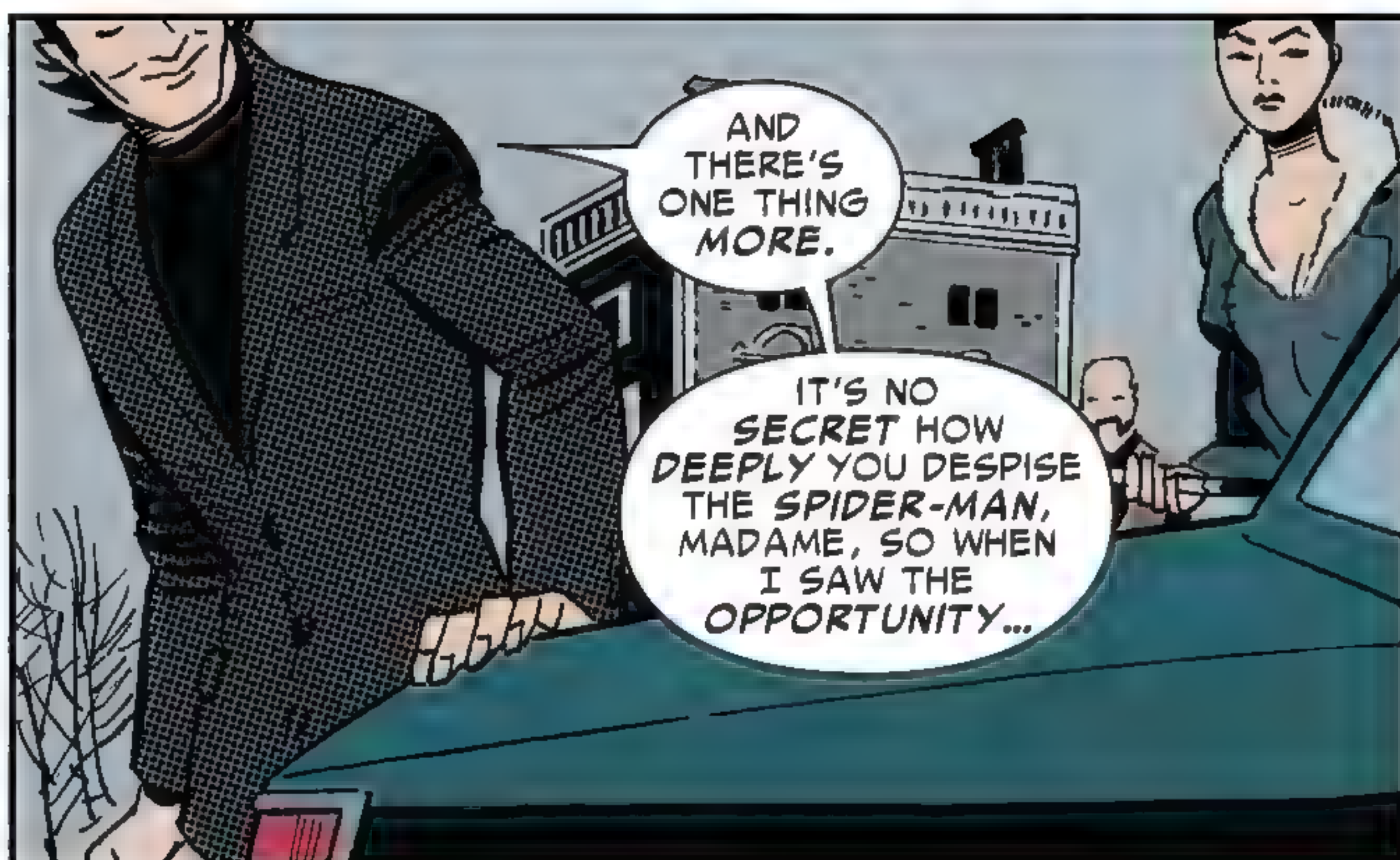














...BESIDES THE OBVIOUS.



AW ###%, LADY! WHAT THE HELL IS THIS FREAK-SHOW?

DUDE SAID I'D BE, LIKE-- LIKE JUMPING OUT OF A CAKE OR SOMETHING!



MADAME KRAVENOVA, PLEASE, NO! I DON'T UNDERSTAND--DON'T KNOW HOW, HOW SHE--

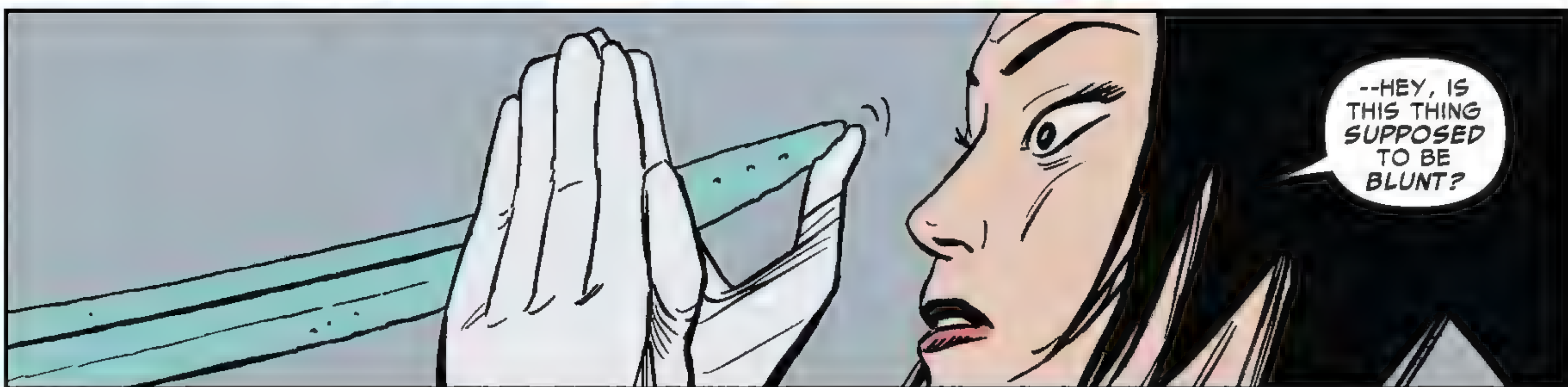
WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT, HOLOPKOV!? YOU DARE MOCK ME WITH--



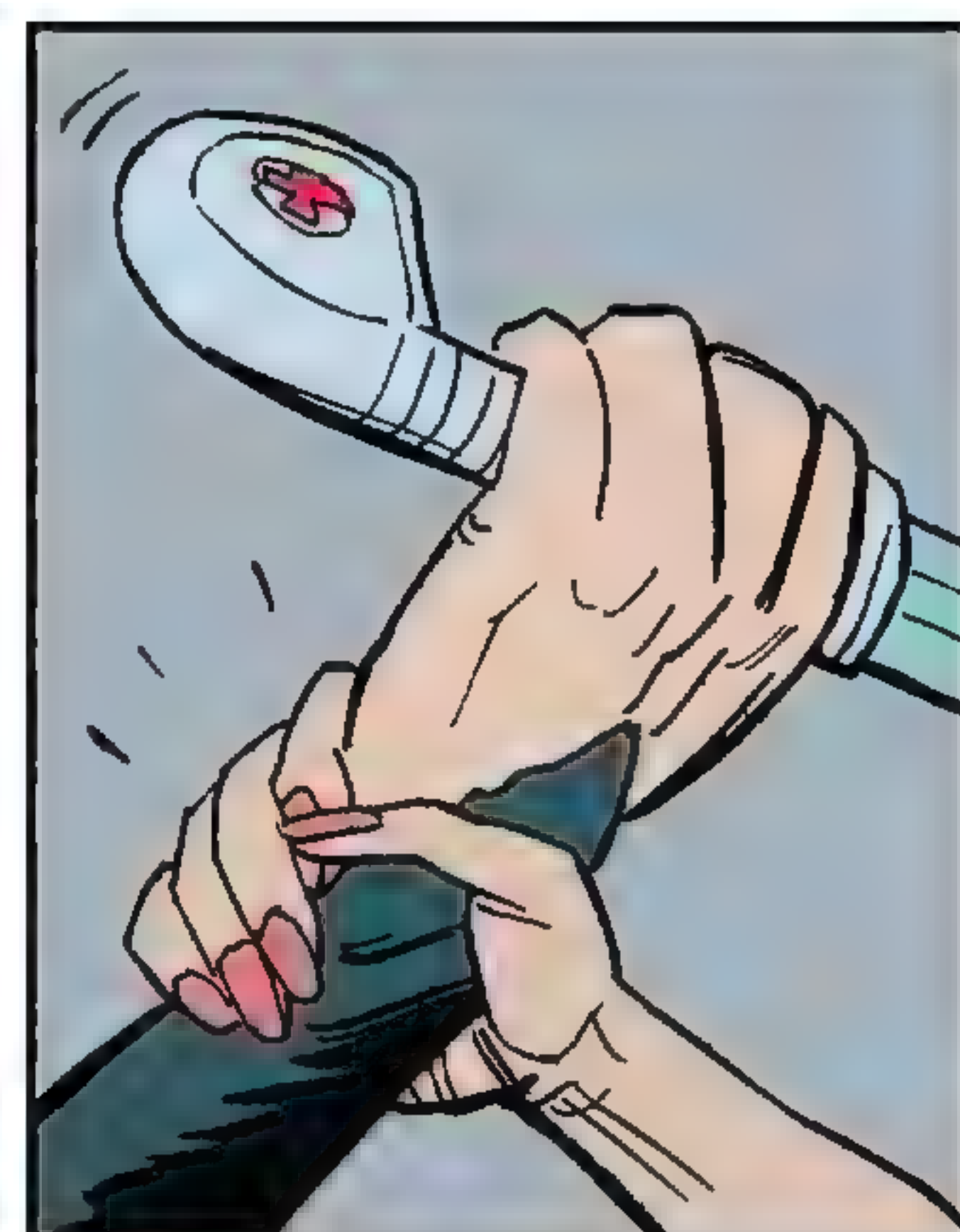
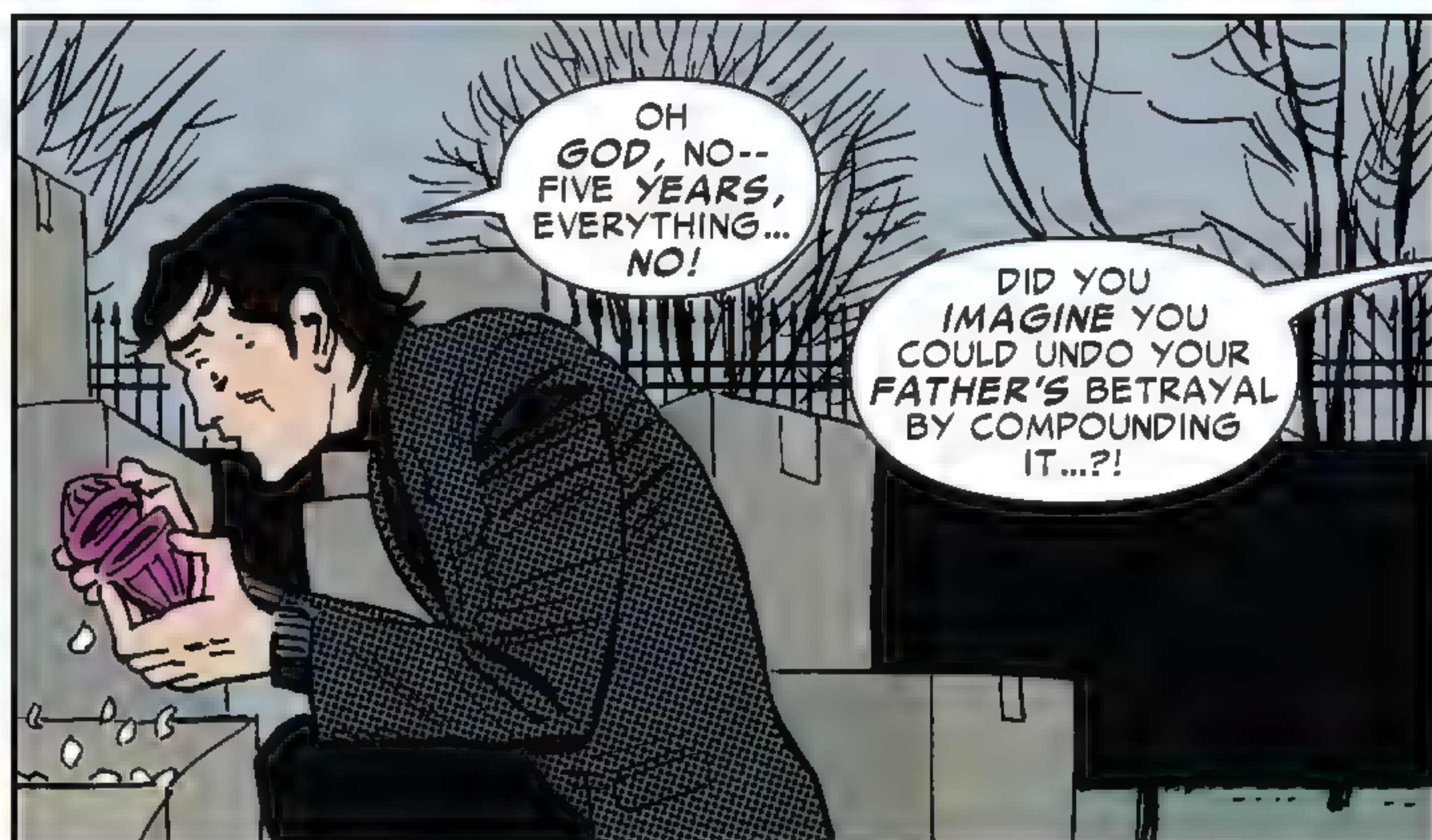
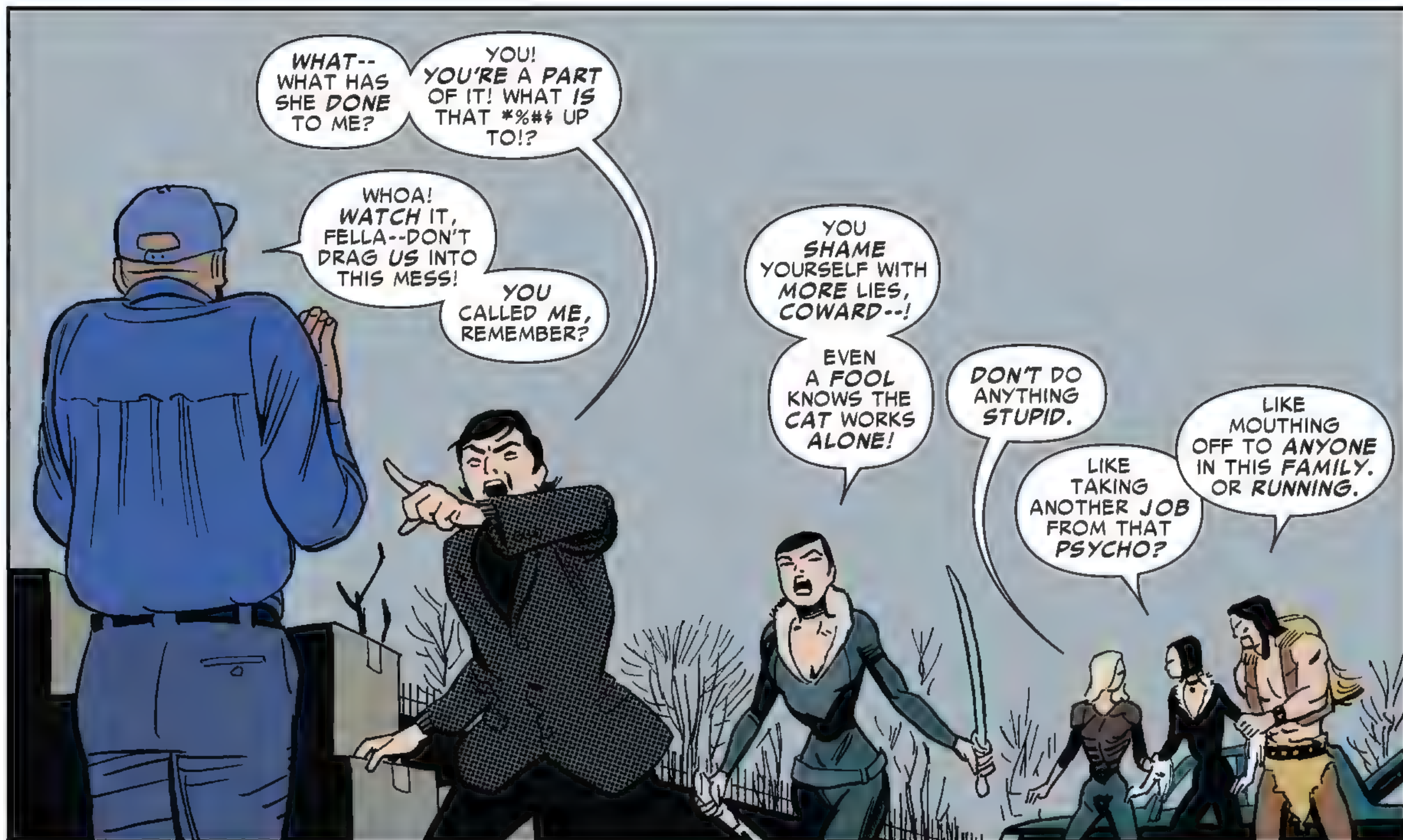
--WITH THIS!?

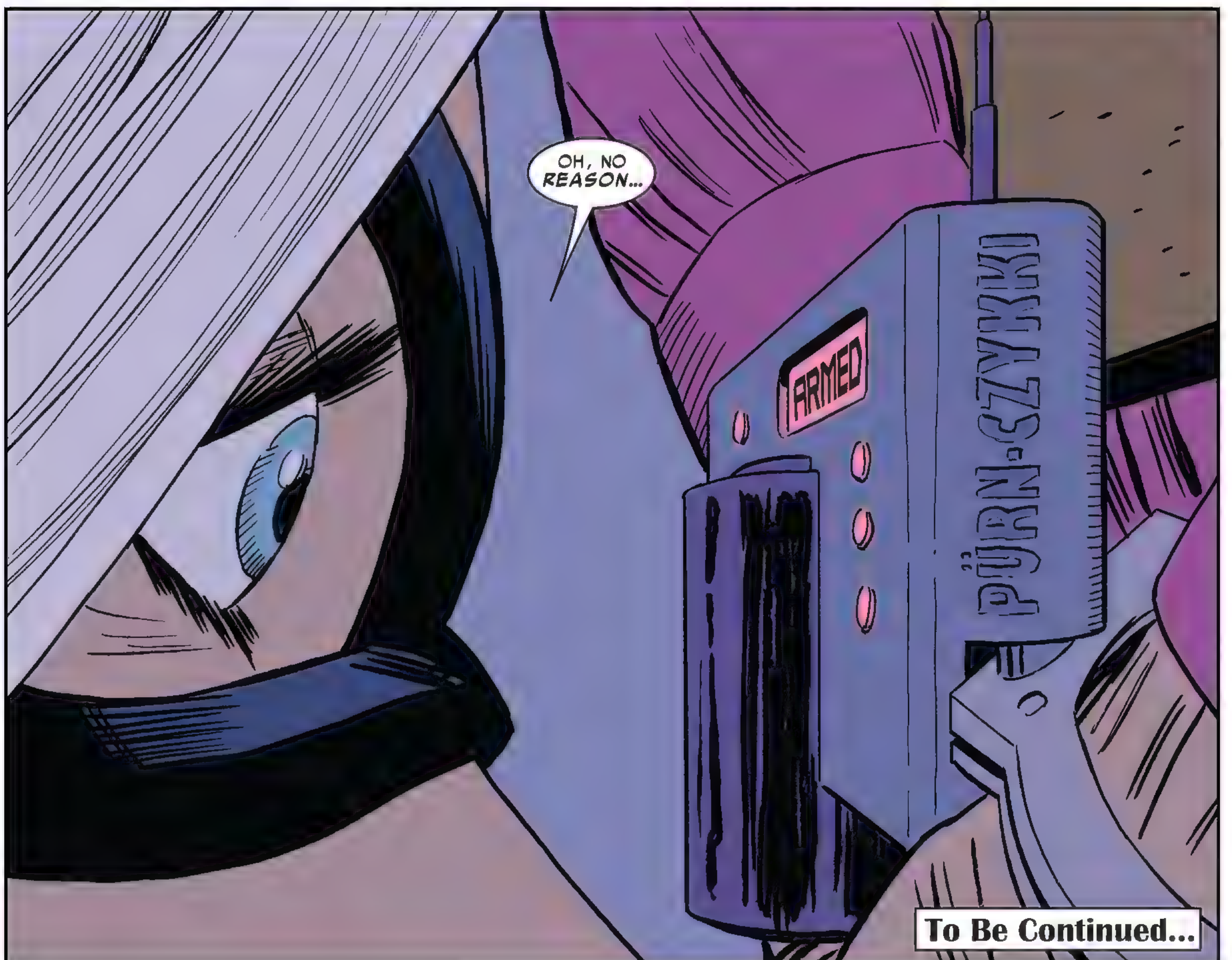
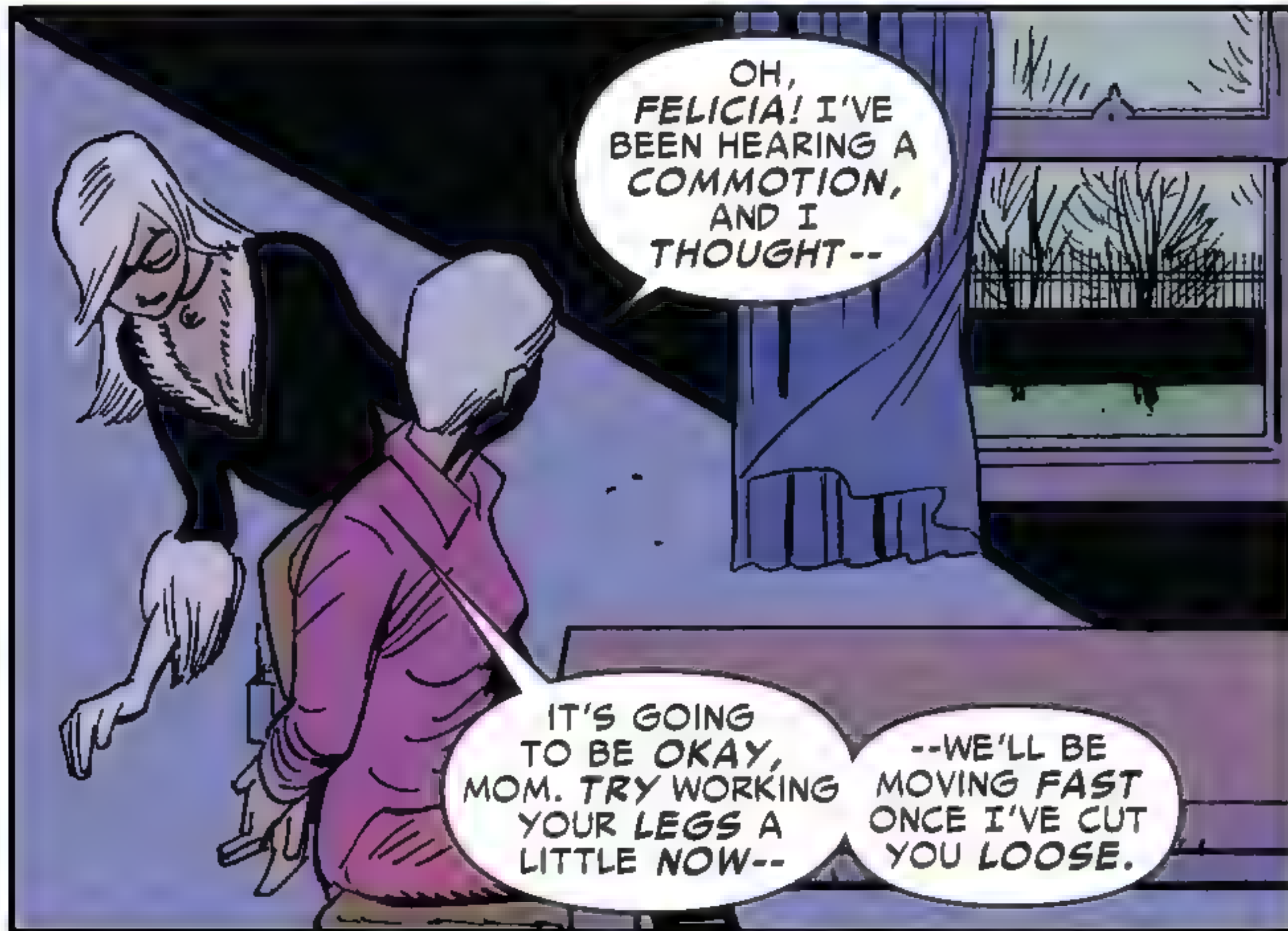
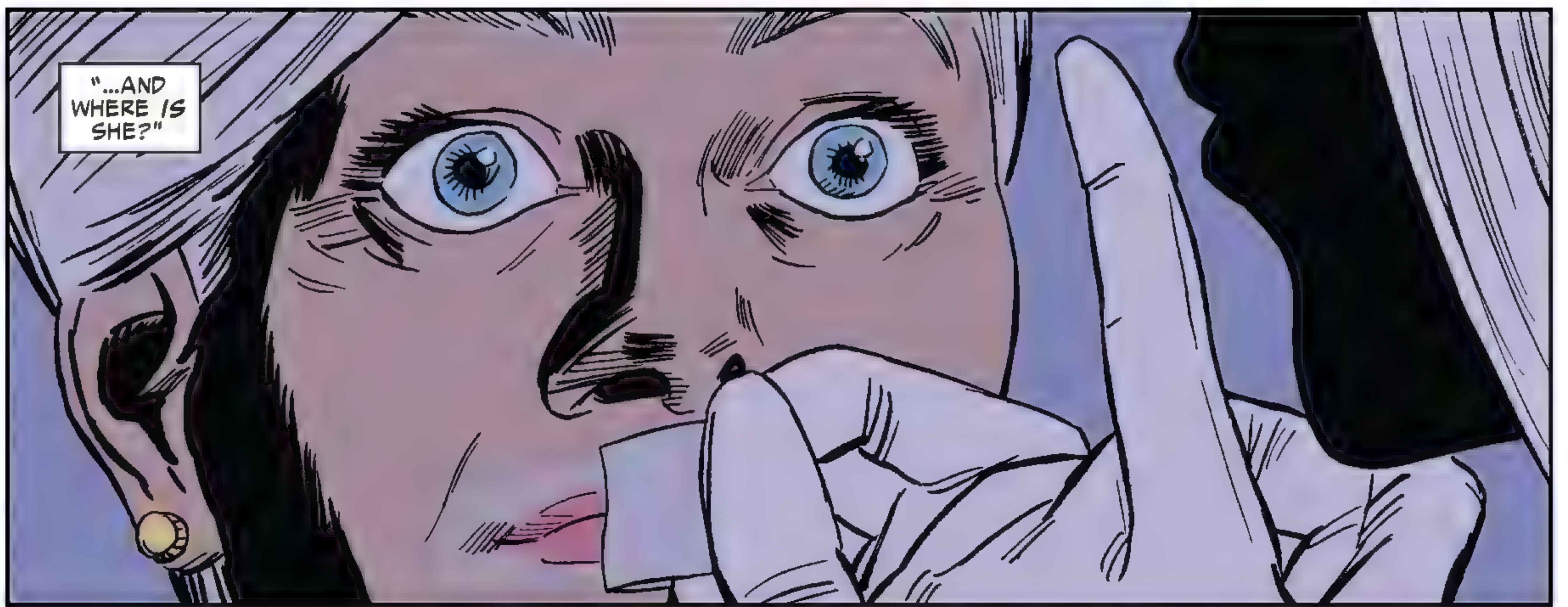
##@%, LADY!

INNOCENT PARTY HERE! I--



--HEY, IS THIS THING SUPPOSED TO BE BLUNT?





VAN METER
PULIDO
HOLLINGSWORTH

BLACK CAT



**The Kravinoff Mansion.
Upstate New York.**

--BUT IF
THESE KRAVEN
PEOPLE DON'T WANT
ME HERE, WHY IS
GETTING ME OUT SO
COMPLICATED?
CAN'T I JUST
LEAVE?

THEY'RE
KILLERS, MOM.
UP TO SOMETHING
NASTY. WHEN SIDOROV
KIDNAPPED YOU
AND BROUGHT
YOU HERE...

...HE MADE
YOU A POTENTIAL
THREAT TO THEM
AND THEIR
PLANS.

SO
FIRST, WE
GET YOU OUT AS
SAFELY AS
POSSIBLE...

...THEN WE
MAKE SURE
SIDOROV GETS SOME
PAYBACK, GET
SOME INTEL ON THE
KRAVENS' PLAN IF
WE'RE LUCKY.

GOT IT.
HAVE YOU
LOOSE IN A
SECOND,
NOW.

HOW MUCH
TIME DO WE
HAVE? YOU SAID
YOUR FRIENDS
WOULD BE--

MY FRIENDS ARE OUT
FRONT RIGHT NOW,
WAITING FOR MY
SIGNAL.

KYOKO
TRADED PLACES
WITH ME AT THE
MUSEUM TO KEEP
SIDOROV DISTRACTED.
BY NOW, SHE'S
WORKING A STORY
TO DISCREDIT
HIM.

BYRON AND
TAMI ARE POSING
AS MOVERS. THEY
SWAPPED IN FAKES OF
SIDOROV'S COLLECTION
AND BROUGHT THEM--
AND ME--HERE.

AREN'T
THEY IN A
GREAT DEAL OF
DANGER?

THEY ARE.
BUT DON'T
WORRY. THEY KNOW
WHAT THEY'RE
DOING.

AND THEY
KNOW I'M HERE,
AND WHAT I'M
DOING...

...WHICH
PUTS THEM WAY
AHEAD OF THE
KRAVENS, AND
SIDOROV.



MY NAME IS VASILI HOLPKIN SIDOROV. FOR CENTURIES MY FAMILY HAS SERVED HOUSE KRAVINOFF-- HOUSEKEEPERS. GUARDS. TUTORS. VALETS.



TINY BIRDS CLEANING THE TEETH OF CROCODILES, WE HAVE KEPT OURSELVES SAFE BY KNOWING OUR PLACE.

I FORGOT MINE.



KRAVINOFF TREASURES, SCATTERED BY HISTORY. I WOULD STEAL THEM ALL BACK.

LIKE JACK CLIMBING THE BEANSTALK, LIKE ALADDIN, I WOULD BE ELEVATED BY PRINCELY ADVENTURE. AND RECEIVE A PRINCE'S REWARD.



WHEN THE LAST FEW PRIZES ELUDED MY TALENTS, I FORCED A MAGICAL CREATURE TO STEAL THEM FOR ME...



...AND SHE BROUGHT ME WHAT I NEEDED. I WAS SO CLOSE.



BUT, MAMAN! WHY WOULD VASILI DARE INSULT US WITH THESE FAKES?

HIS FATHER MADE A SHAMEFUL ERROR OF JUDGMENT ONCE...PERHAPS THE BLOODLINE GROWS WEAK-MINDED!

BUT NOW, AT THE MOMENT OF MY TRIUMPH, MY LUCK HAS TURNED SOUR. THE QUEEN ACCUSES ME OF TREACHERY. IMPS HAVE STOLEN MY TREASURE.

AND THE GENIE...

Black Cat: The Trophy Hunters

Part Four

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**MATT
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**TOM
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ASST. EDITOR

**JOE
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EDITOR IN CHIEF

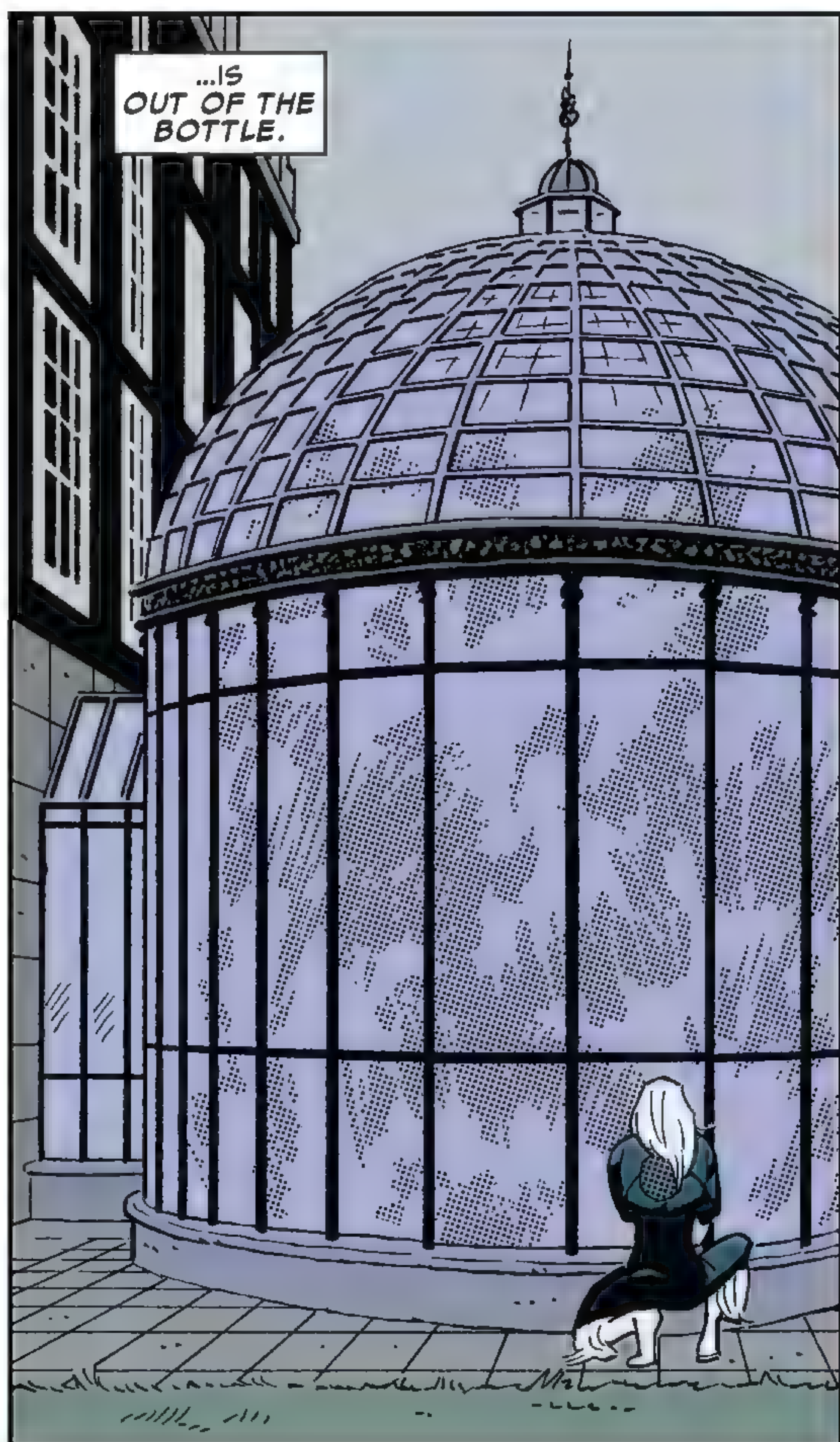
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CARAMAGNA**
LETTERS

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**DAN
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PUBLISHER

**TOM
BREVOORT**
EXEC. EDITOR

**ALAN
FINE**
EXEC. PRODUCER





SORRY--MY
DISPATCHER.
I GOTTA--



WHO IS
THIS?

ER--UH--
MARSHA FLYNN?
DISPATCH FOR ATTA-BOY
MOVERS? I'M TRYING
TO REACH MY DRIVER?
OR HIS ASSISTANT?
HE'S GOT A
PICKUP IN--



SEND A
DIFFERENT
TEAM TO
POUGHKEEPSIE,
THEN...



...THESE
TWO, AND THEIR
VAN, WILL BE HERE
ALL DAY IF
NECESSARY.

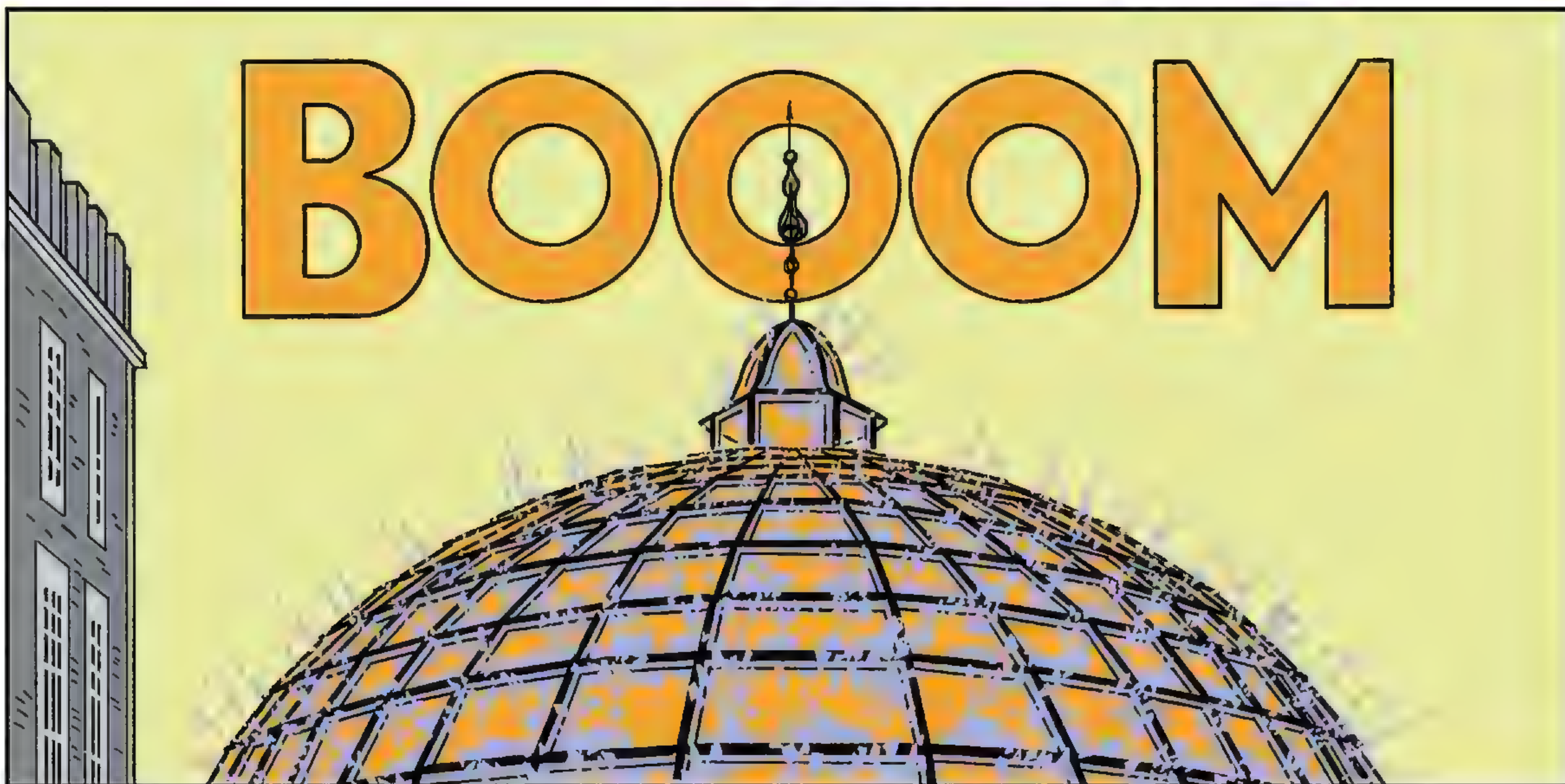
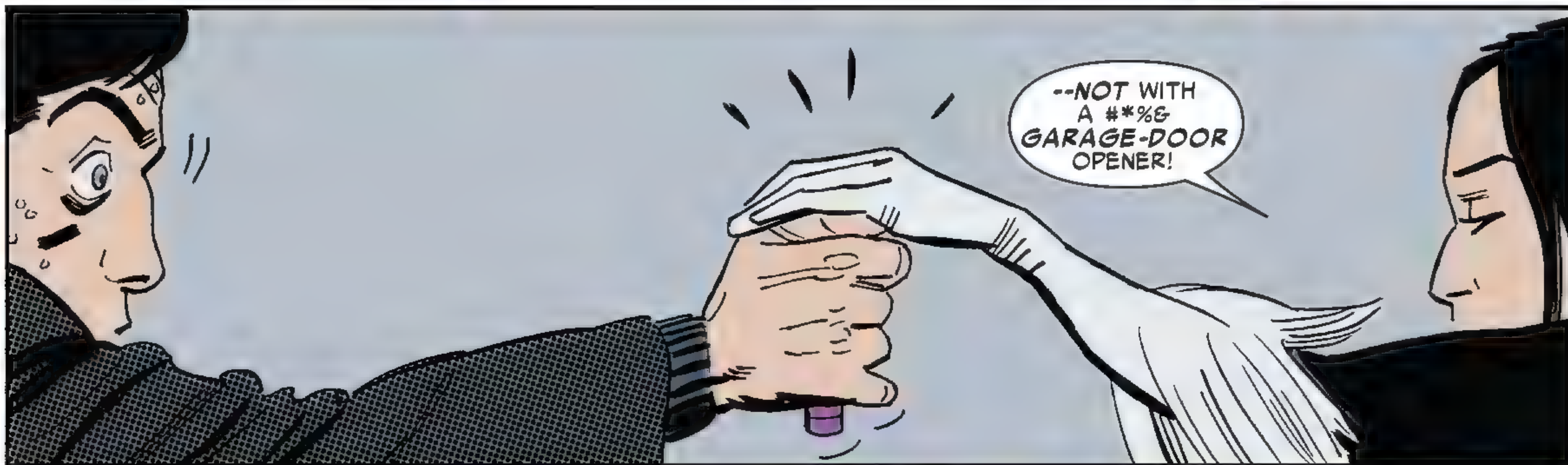
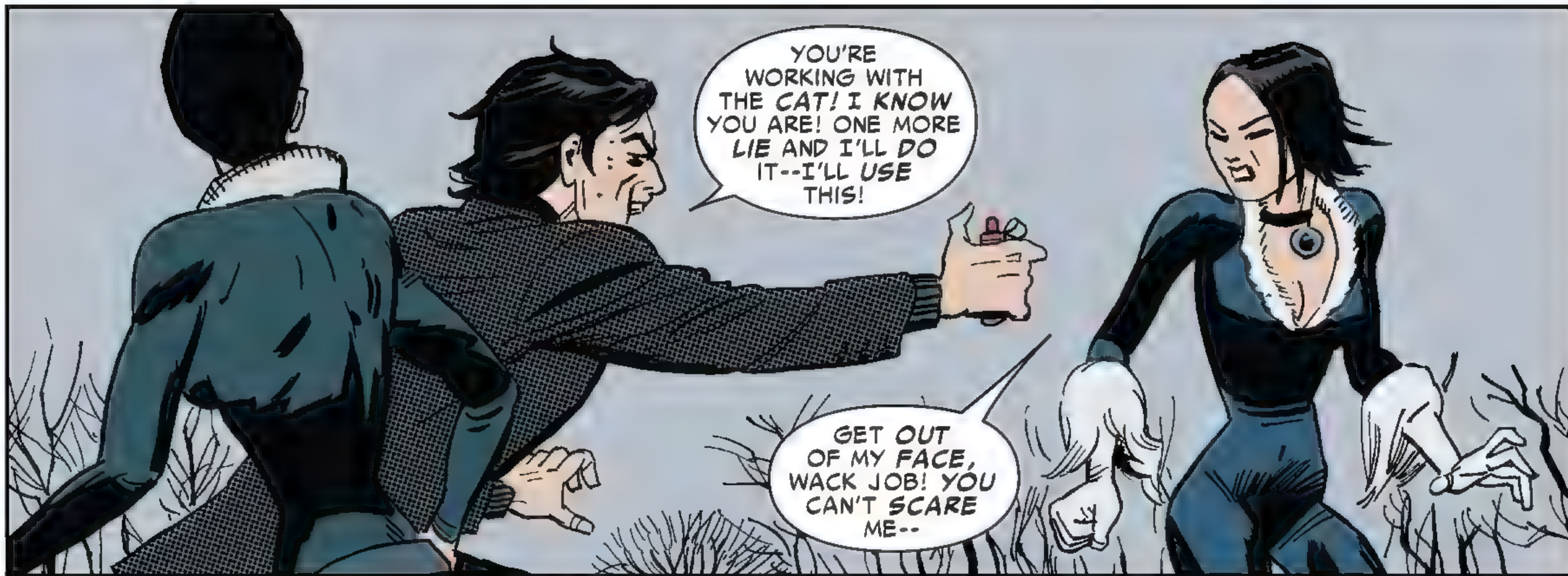


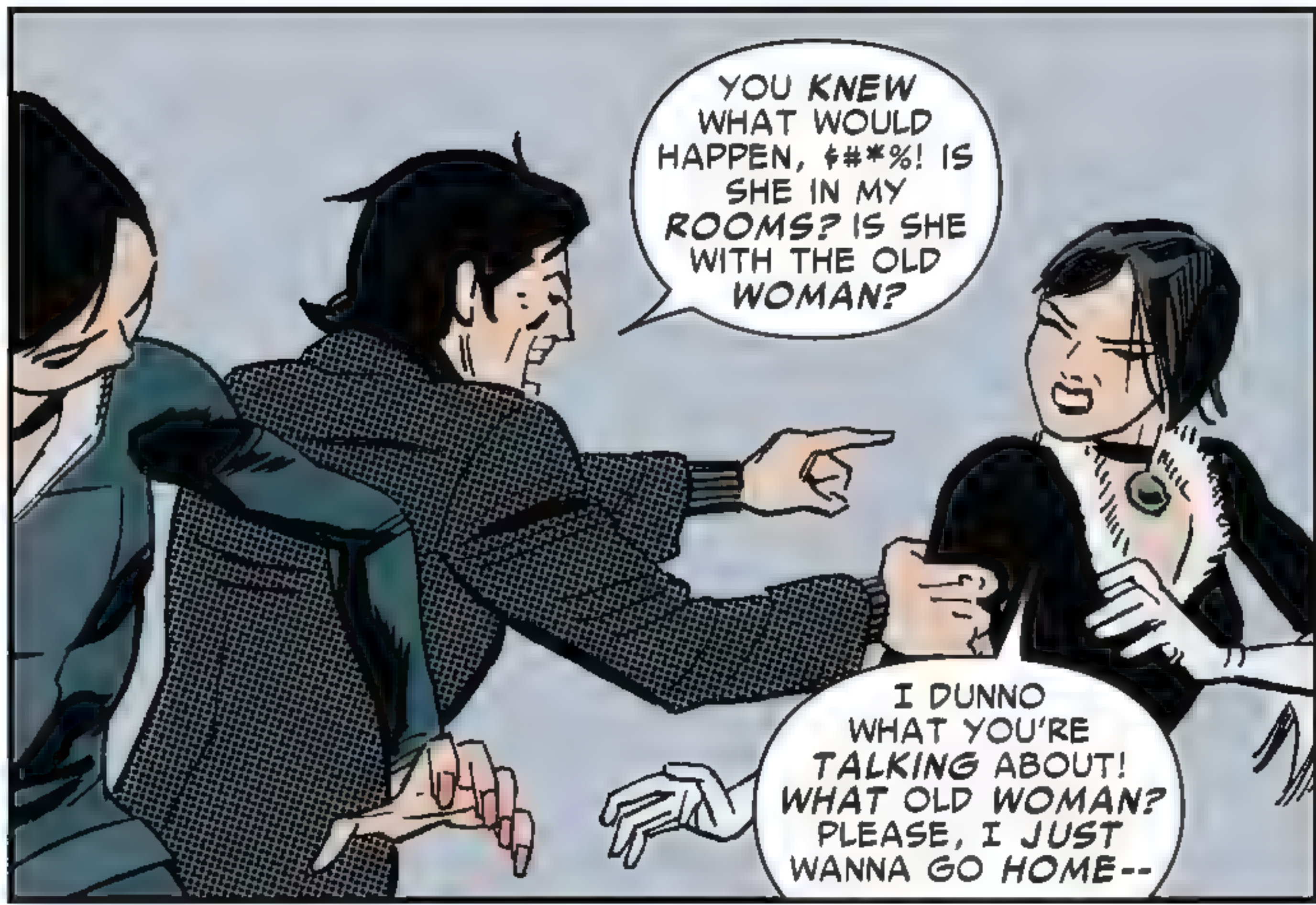
ALL DAY?!
OH NO! I'VE
GOT A BACHELOR
PARTY AT
SIX...



...AND THAT'S
A MONTH'S RENT!
SHOULD'A KNOWN THIS
GIG WAS WRONG, THE
WAY HE WAS GOING
ON ABOUT BIG
PLANS AND--

WHAT?!
WHAT PLANS
DID HE TELL
YOU ABOUT,
TRAMP?







YOU
MUST BE
MADAME
KRAVINOFF.

SORRY
ABOUT THE MESS,
BUT YOUR GUY HERE
KILLED MY FRIEND
AND KIDNAPPED
MY MOTHER.

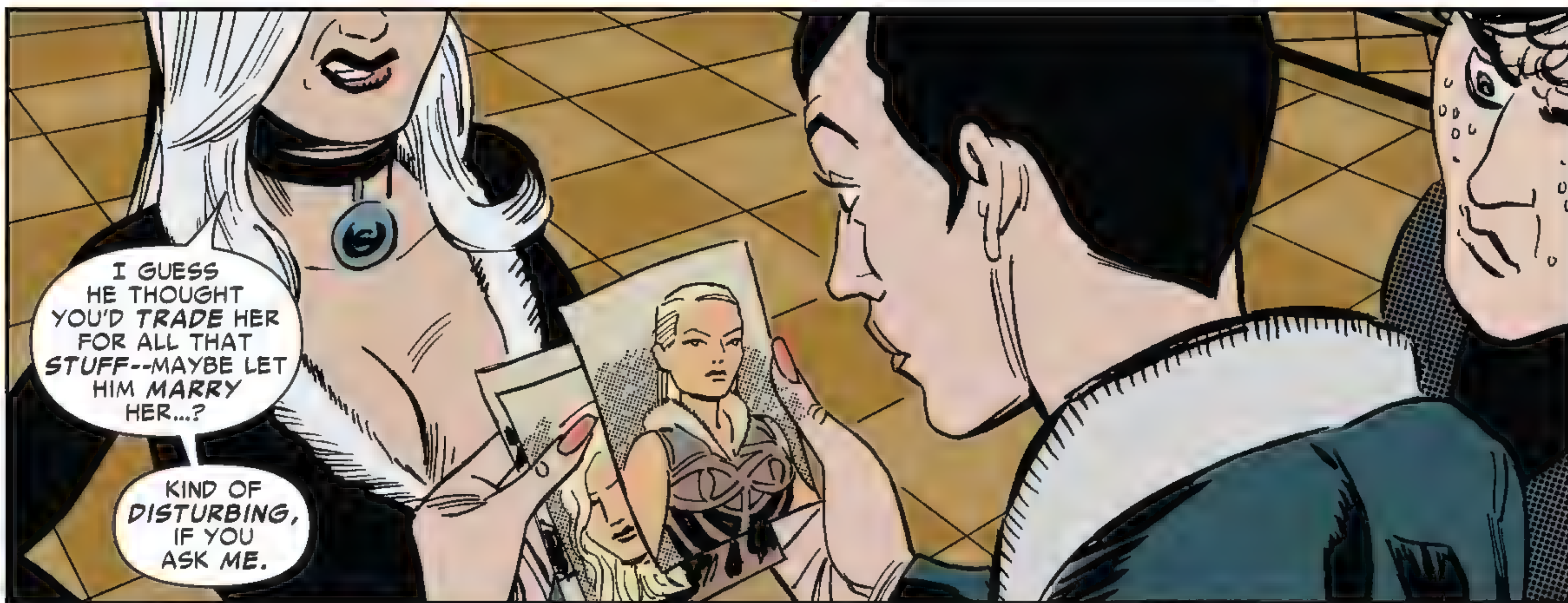
I JUST
HAD TO MEET
THE WOMAN HE
WAS DOING
IT FOR...



...BUT
HE WASN'T
REALLY DOING
IT FOR
YOU.

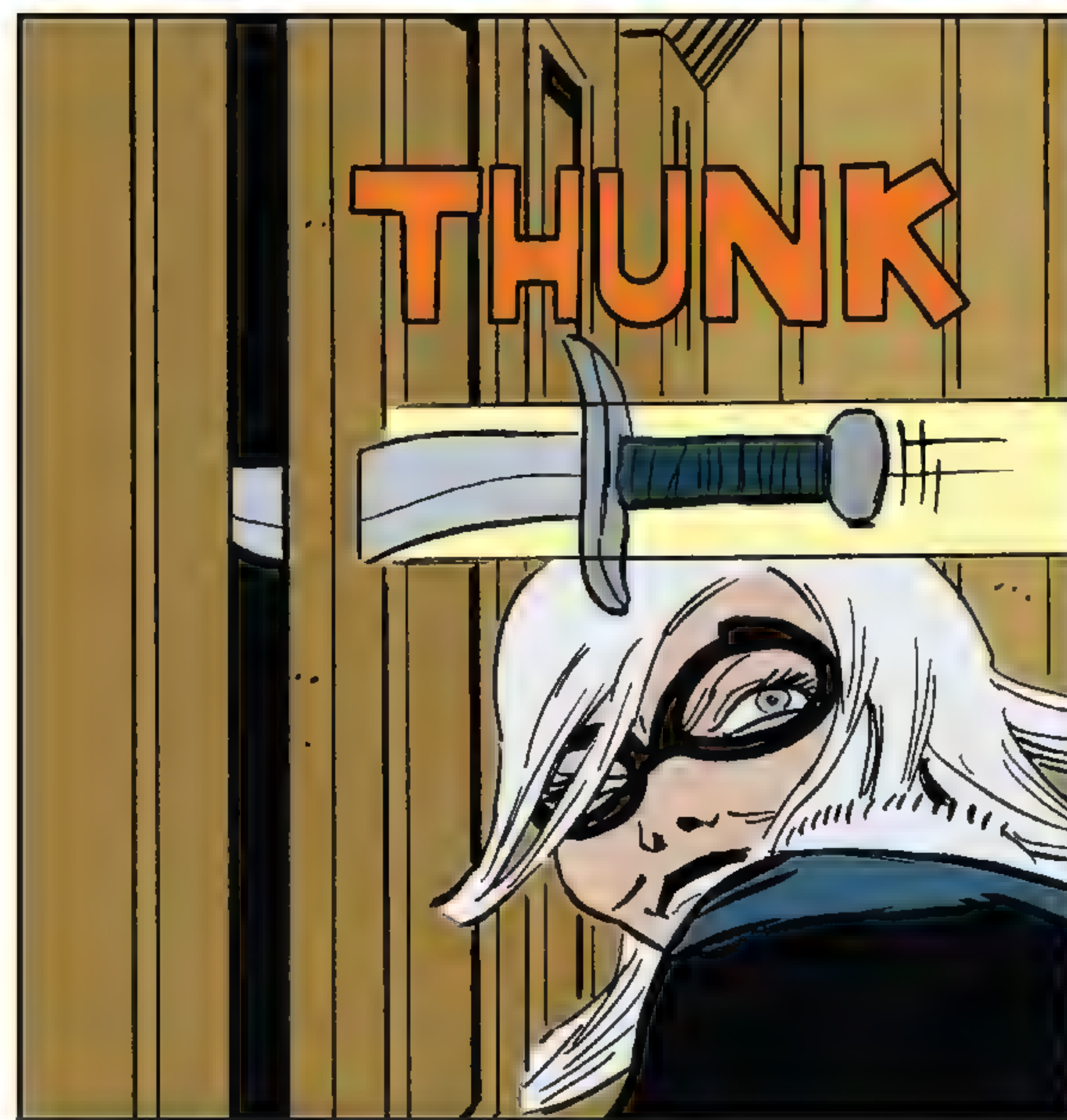
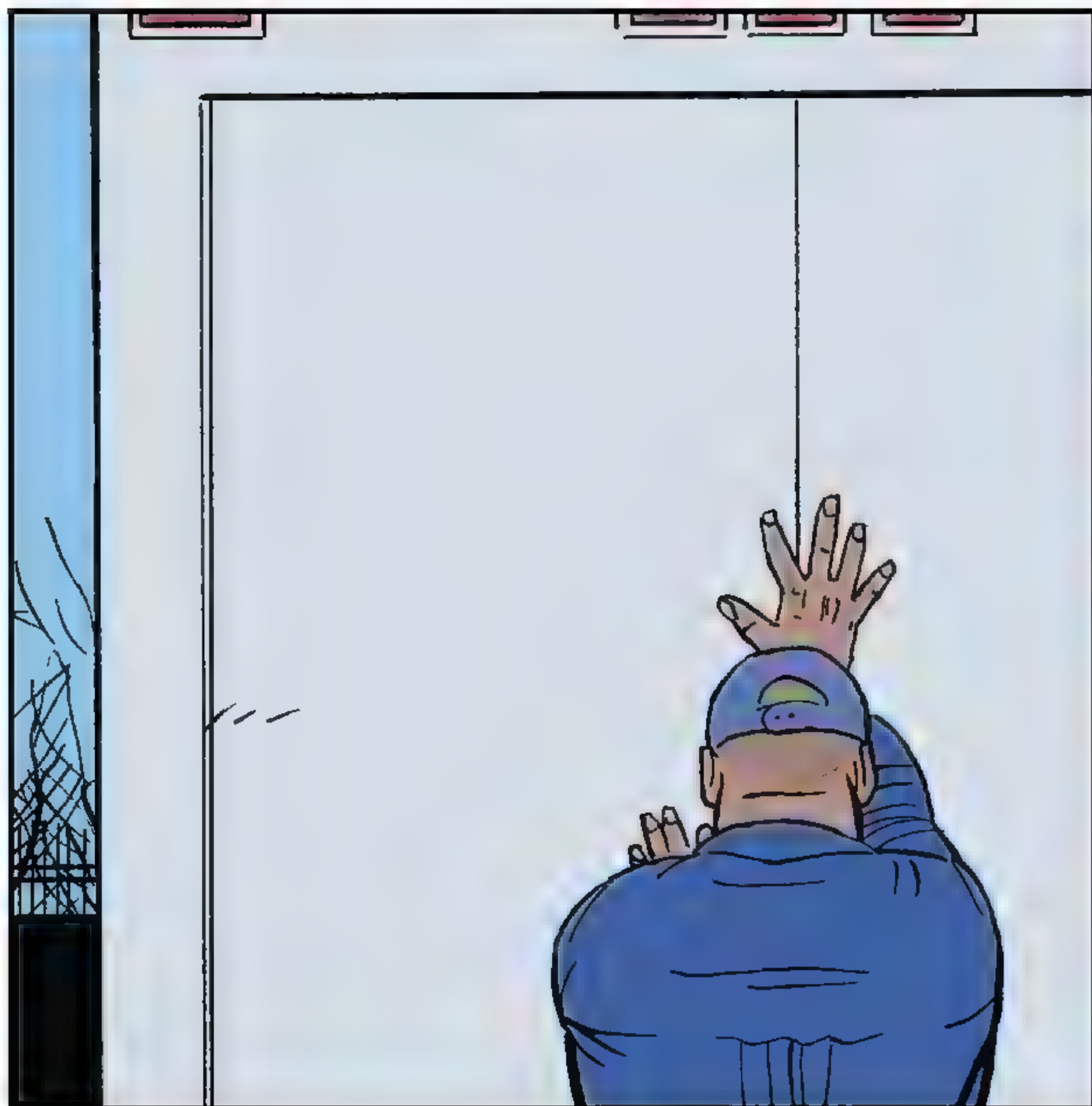


HE'S BEEN
OBSESSING
OVER HER FOR
YEARS.

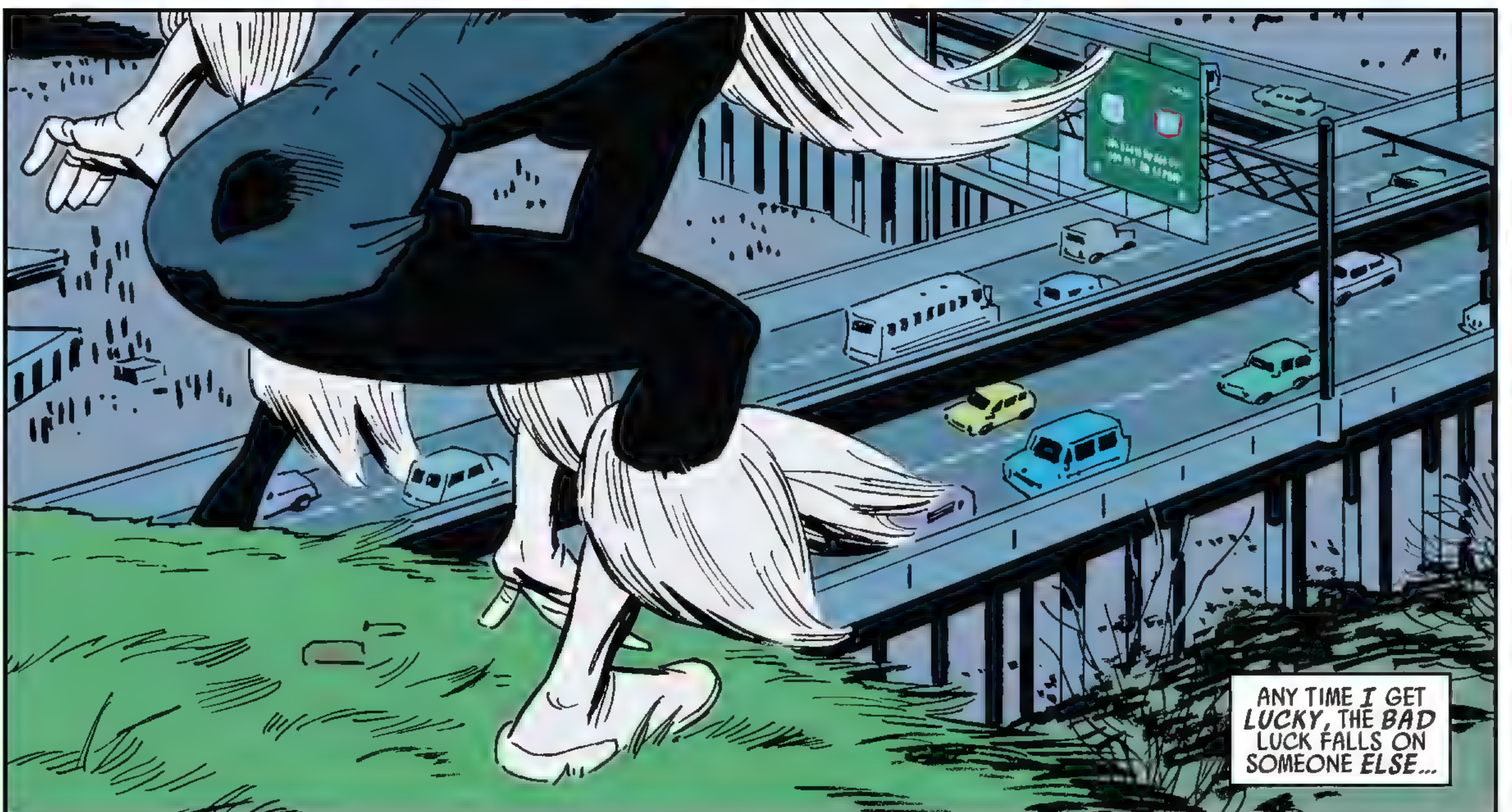
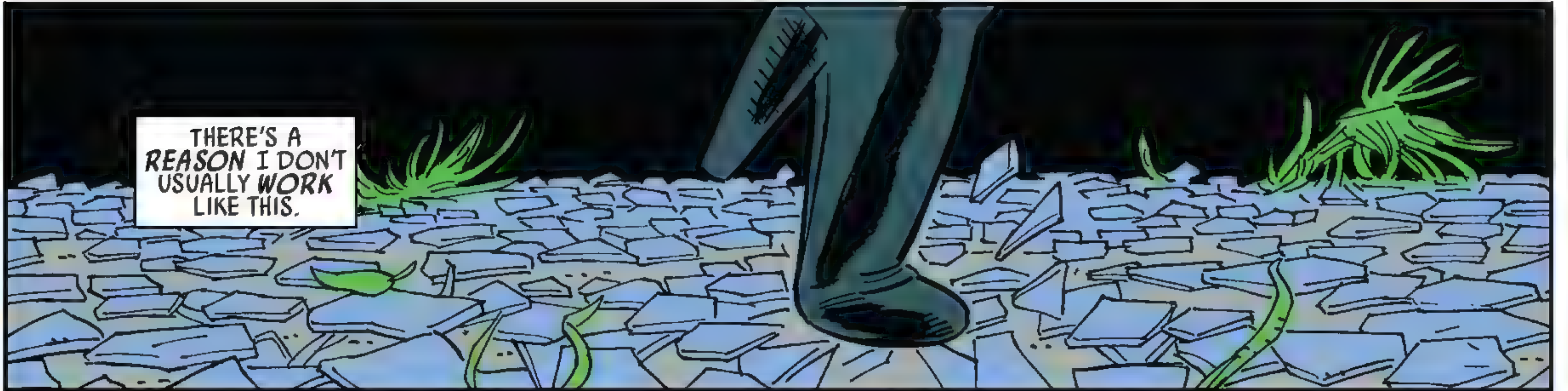
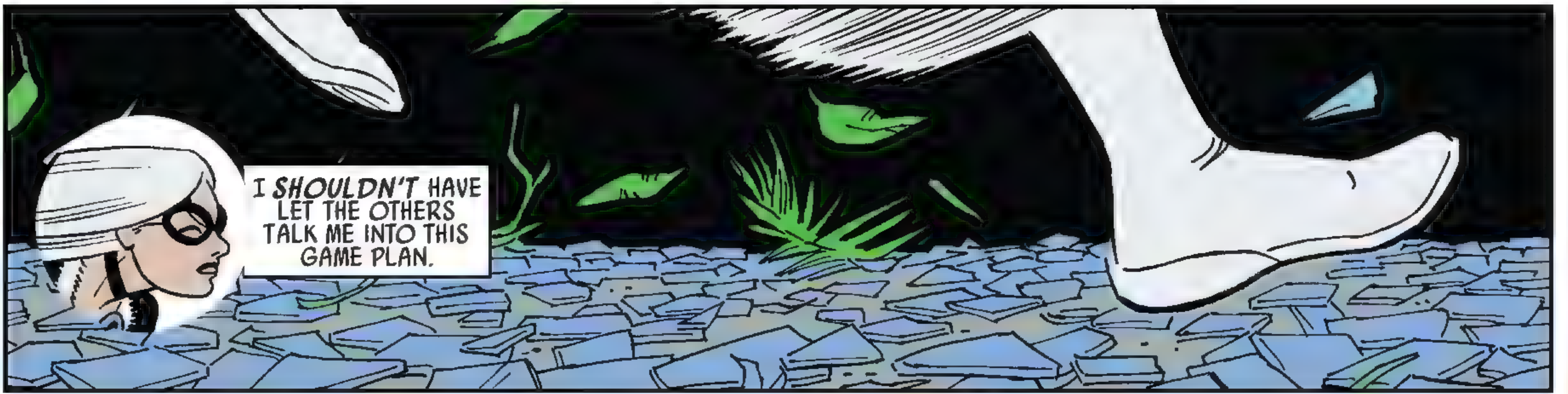










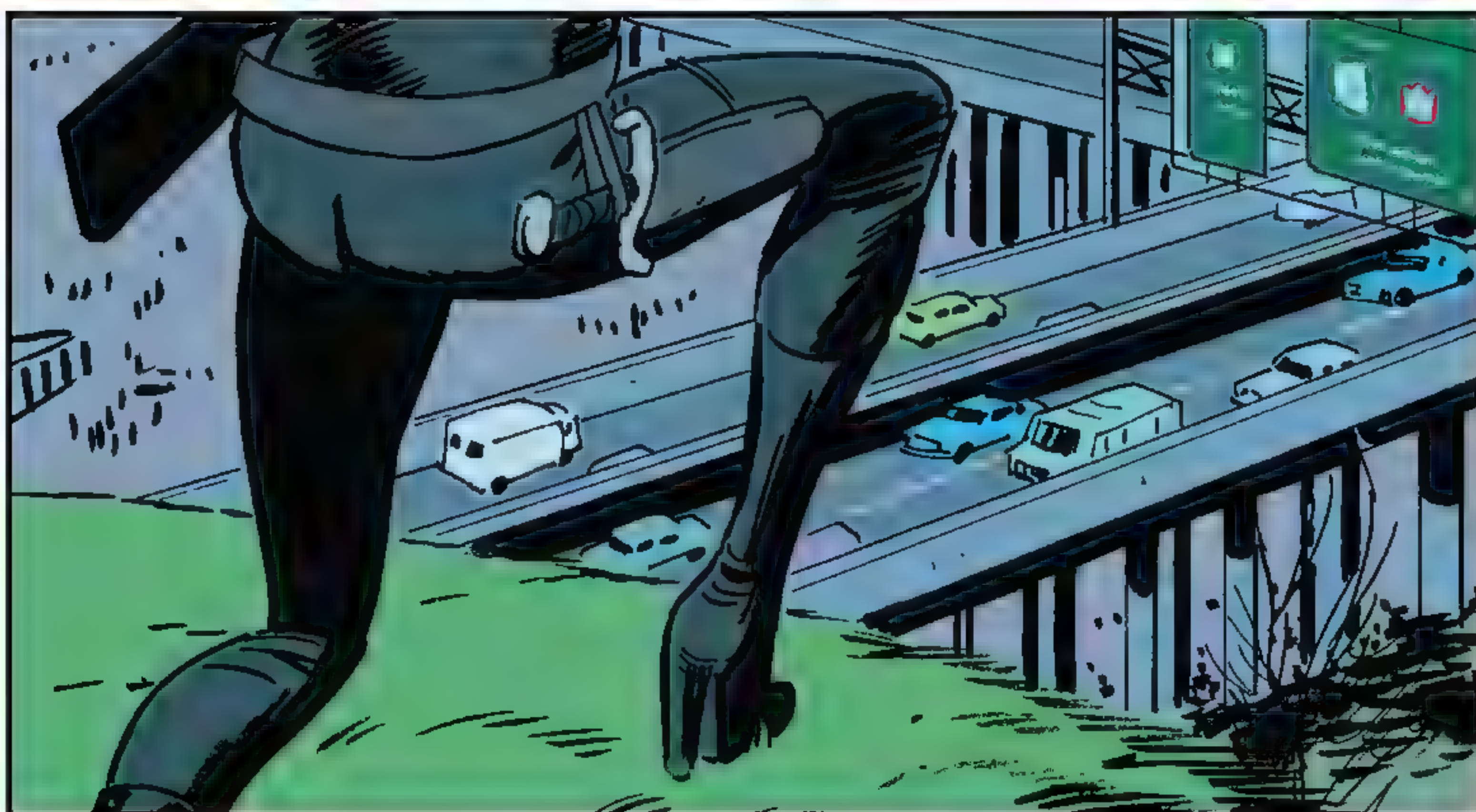


...AND I
DON'T GET TO
PICK WHO.

TUMP

THAT'S
THAT,
THEN?

FAT
LADY'S
NOT EVEN ON
STAGE
YET.



WE'RE ALL
GOOD, BOSS.
RELAX,
WILL YA?



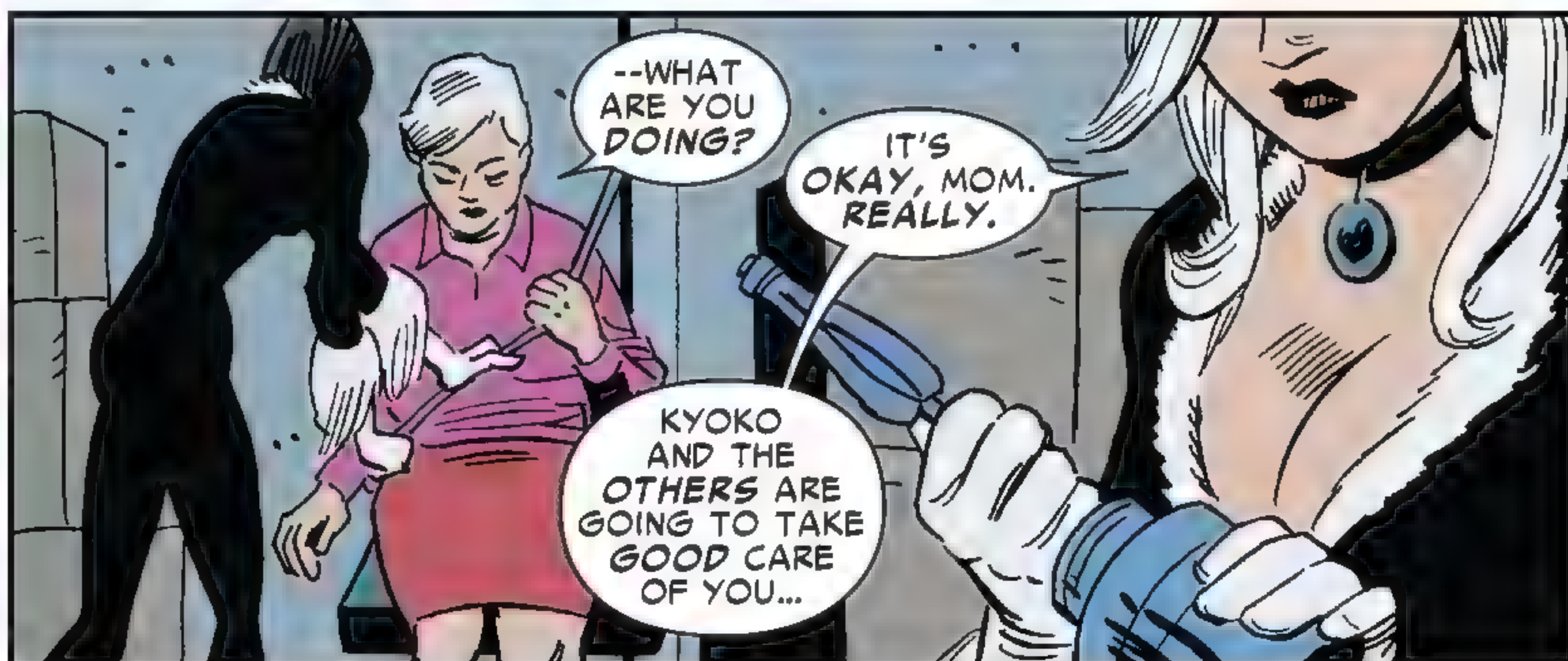
MAMA CRAZYBOOTS
HAD ME SCARED
BACK THERE,
THOUGH. I
ADMIT IT.

WHATEVER
SHE'S GOT
GOING MUST
BE TRULY
UGLY.

I'M
HERE, MOM.
I'VE GOT
YOU.

I'M
SORRY,
FELICIA.

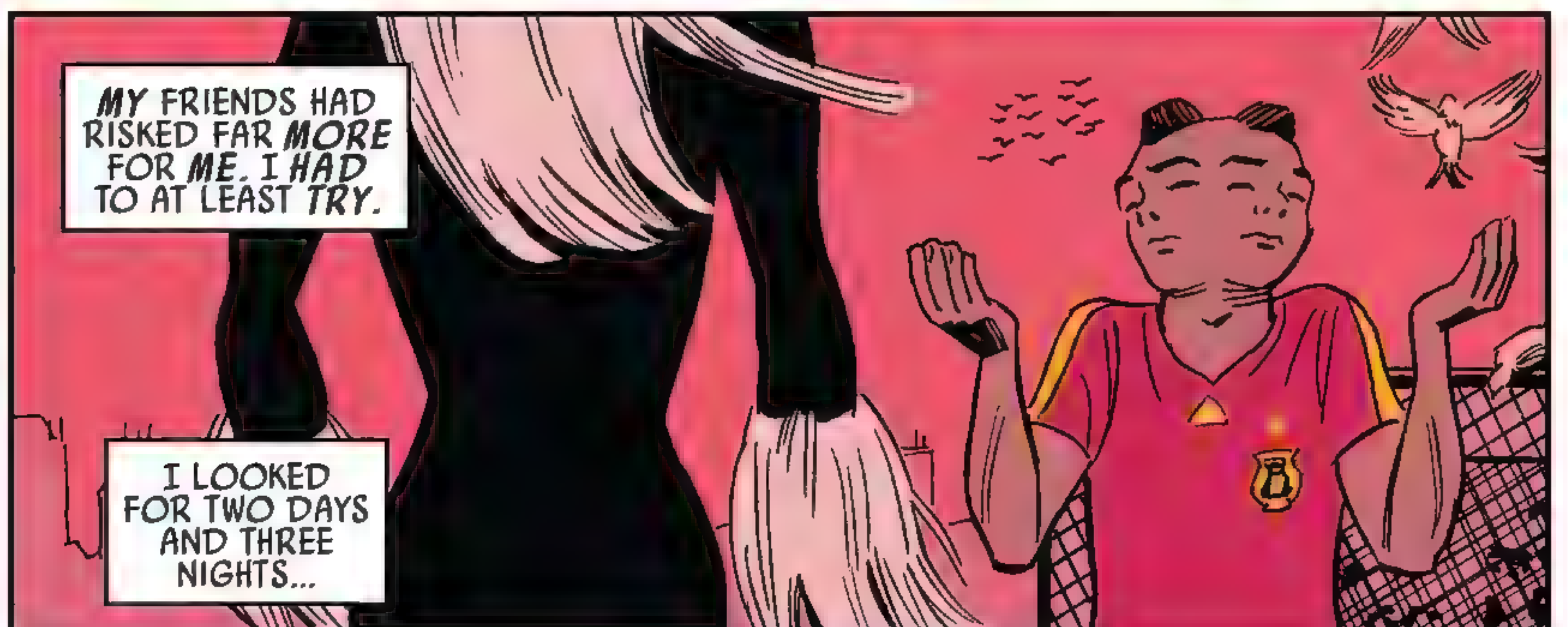
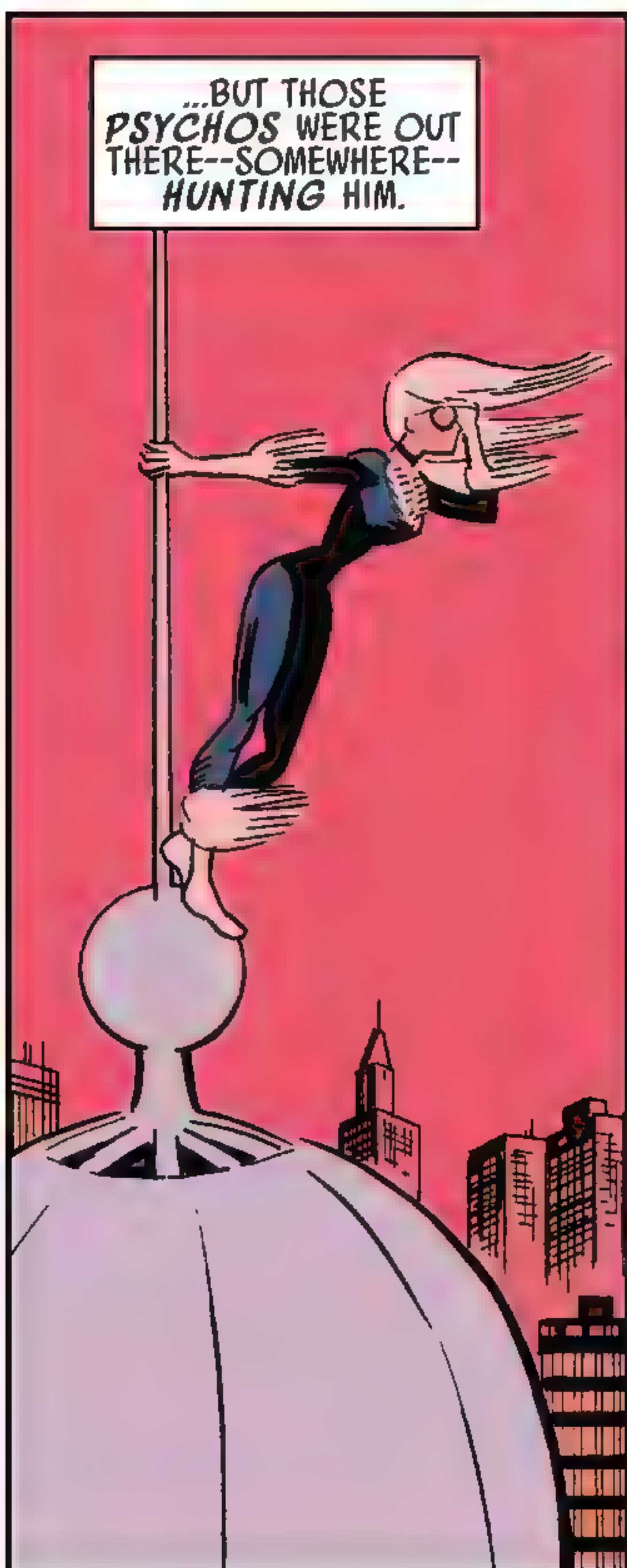
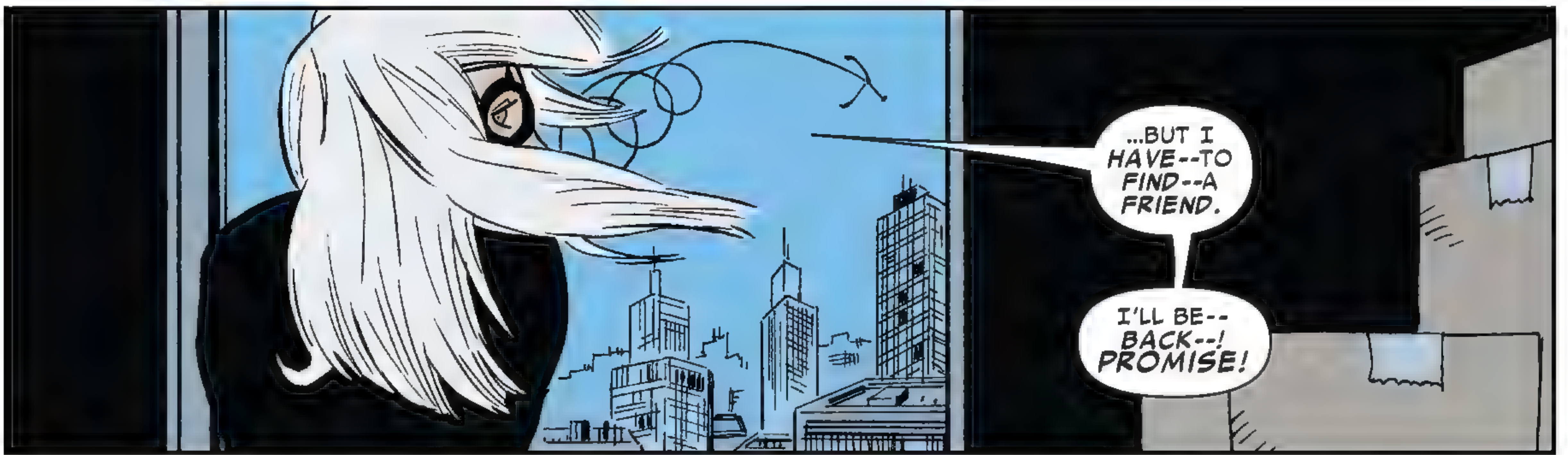
I STARTED
TO BELIEVE
YOU MIGHT LEAVE
ME THERE. I'M
SO S--

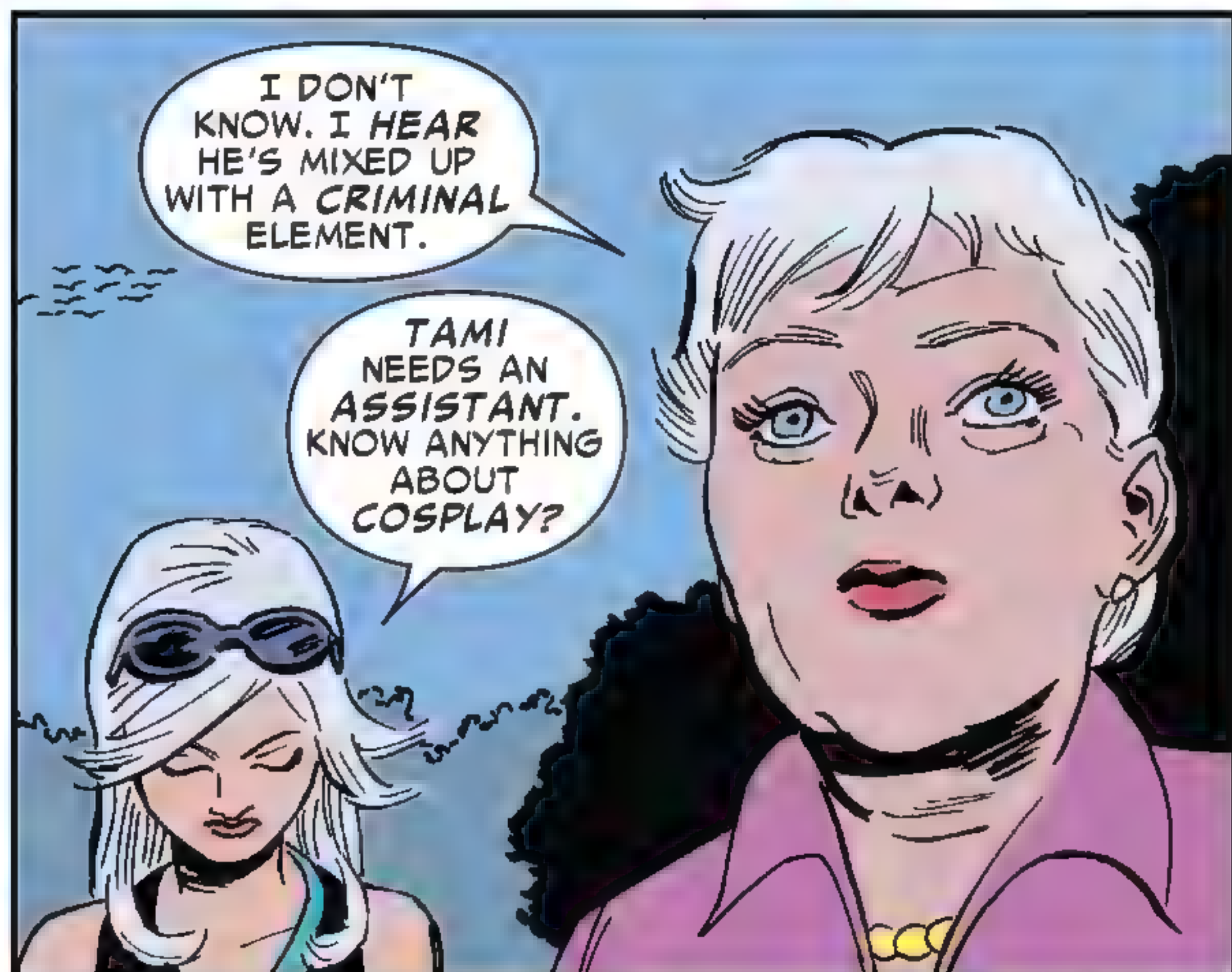


--WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

IT'S
OKAY, MOM.
REALLY.

KYOKO
AND THE
OTHERS ARE
GOING TO TAKE
GOOD CARE
OF YOU...







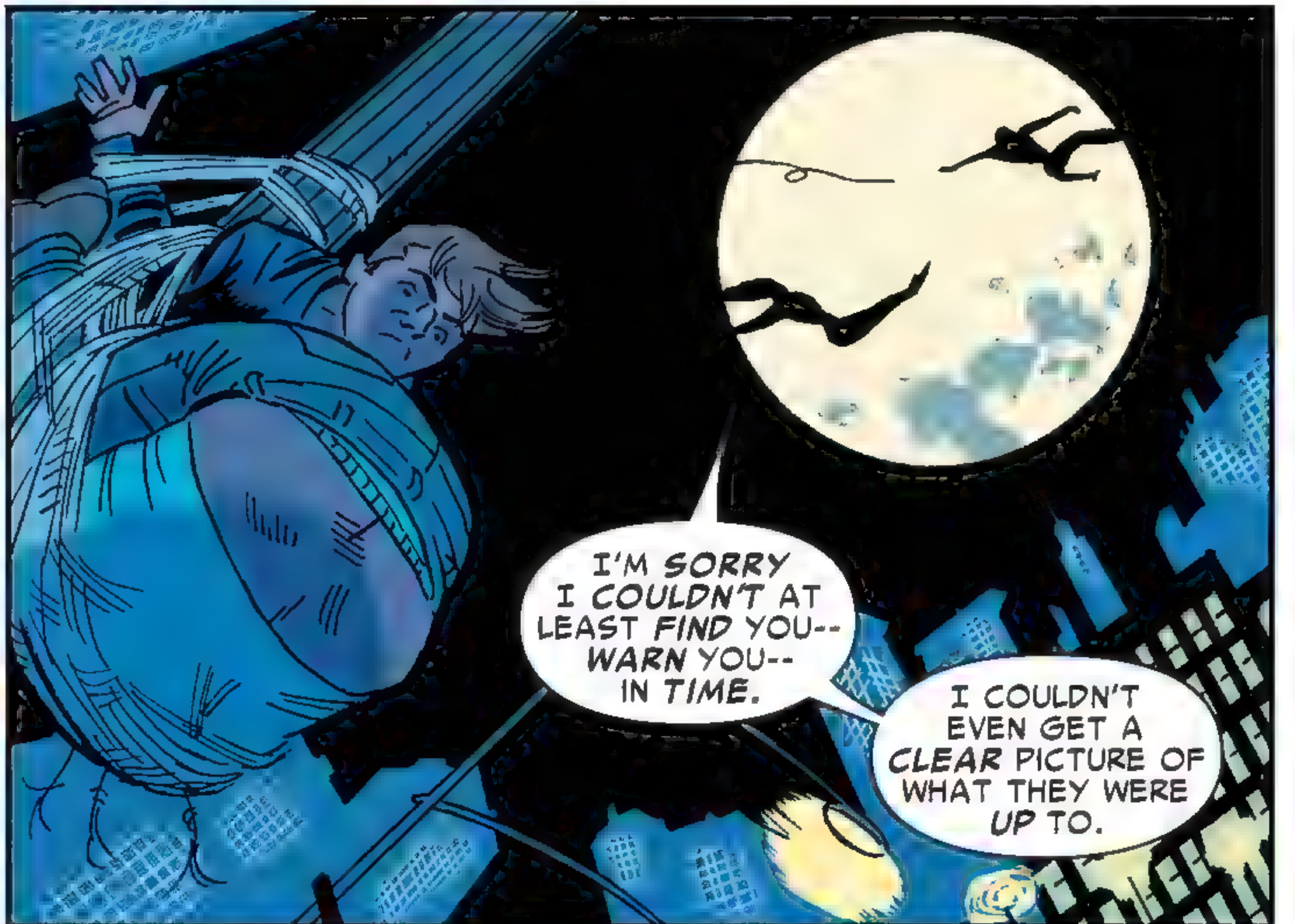
RIGHT.
I TELL YOU SOME
DUDE'S KIDNAPPED
MY MOM TO MAKE ME
STEAL THE KRAVEN
FAMILY JEWELS,
BUT STAY OUT
OF IT--

--WHAT
DO YOU
DO?



I WOULD
HAVE TRIED
TO HELP--

YEAH,
'CAUSE YOU'RE
A GOOD PERSON.
AND I COULDN'T LET
YOU DO THAT. I
WANTED TO KEEP
YOU SAFE.



I'M SORRY
I COULDN'T AT
LEAST FIND YOU--
WARN YOU--
IN TIME.

I COULDN'T
EVEN GET A
CLEAR PICTURE OF
WHAT THEY WERE
UP TO.



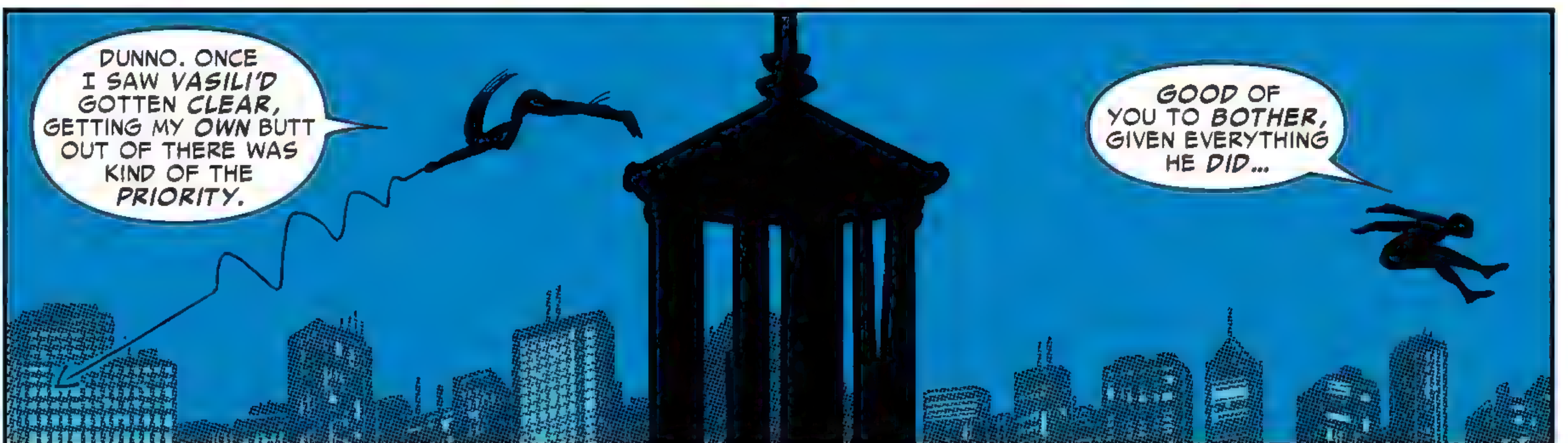
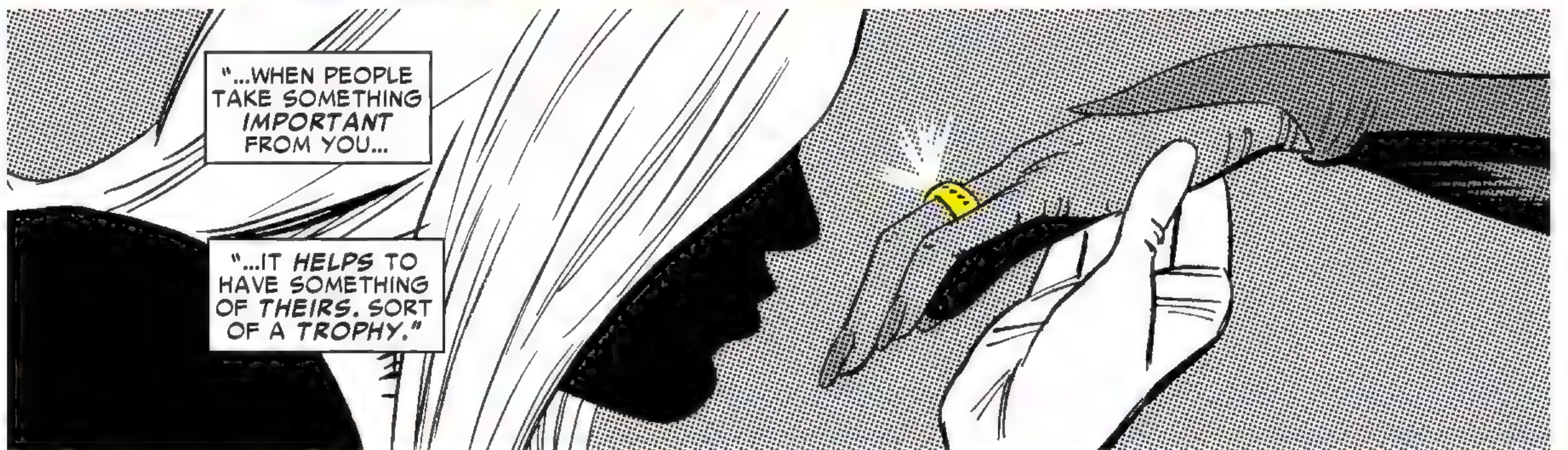
LIKE I SAID,
THEY WANTED TO
SACRIFICE ME TO
RESURRECT THEIR
DEAD DADDY, KRAVEN.
PRACTICED ON A LOT OF
PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT.

I'M VERY
SORRY ABOUT
YOUR FRIENDS.
HOW'RE YOU
HOLDING UP?



LIKE YOU
MIGHT EXPECT.
NOT GREAT.
GETTING BY.

I BROUGHT
YOU SOMETHING.
MIGHT HELP
A LITTLE.





"...YOU THINK HE GOT AWAY?"



OF ALL THE THINGS YOU HAVE TRIED TO DO, YOU ARE BEST AT HIDING.

BUT STILL NOT GOOD ENOUGH, LITTLE MOUSE.



YOU WANTED ME FOR SO LONG, VASIL.

YET YOU DON'T LOOK AT ALL HAPPY TO SEE ME.

MISS...MISS ANASTASIA! I-- I WOULDN'T-- PLEASE DON'T--!

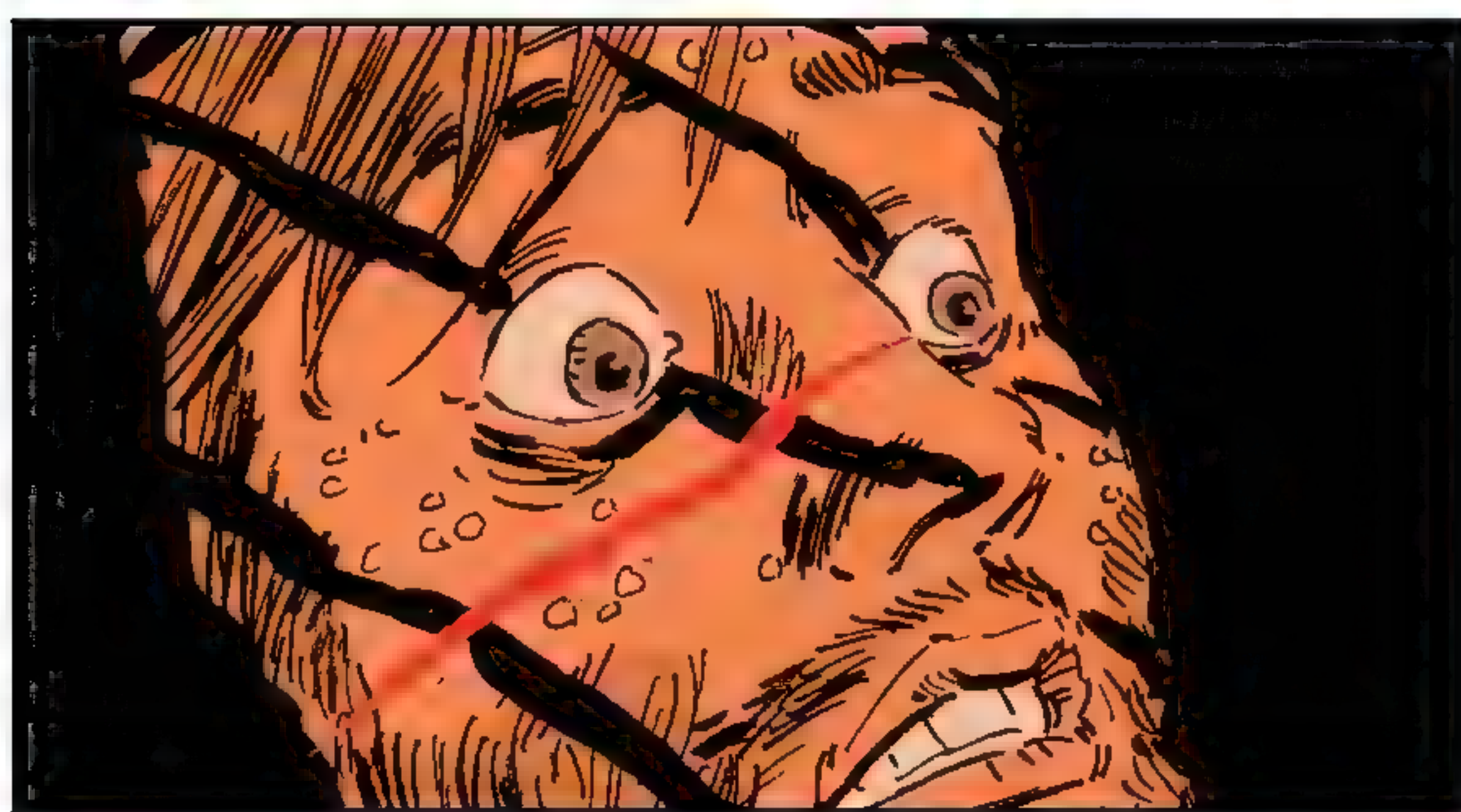
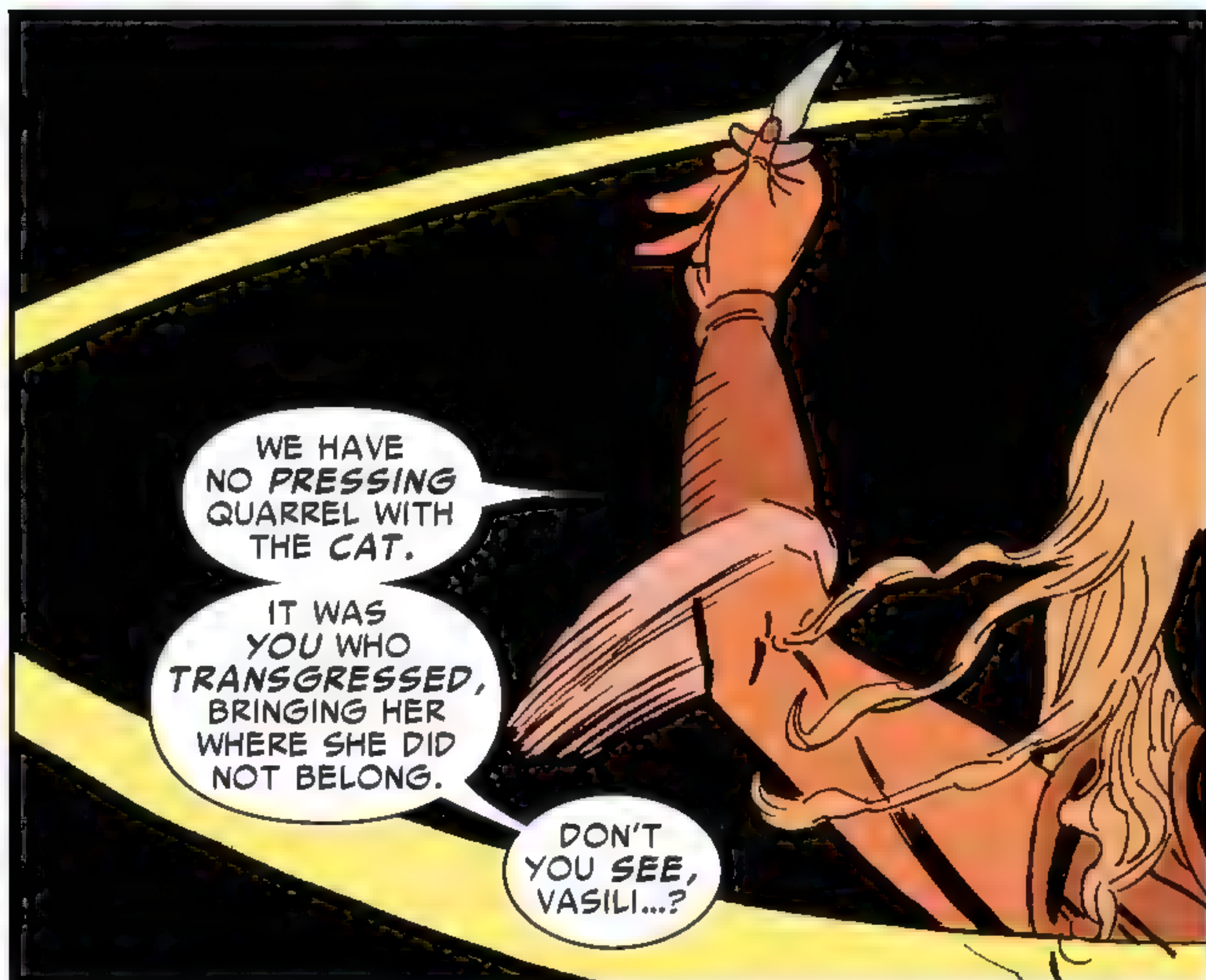


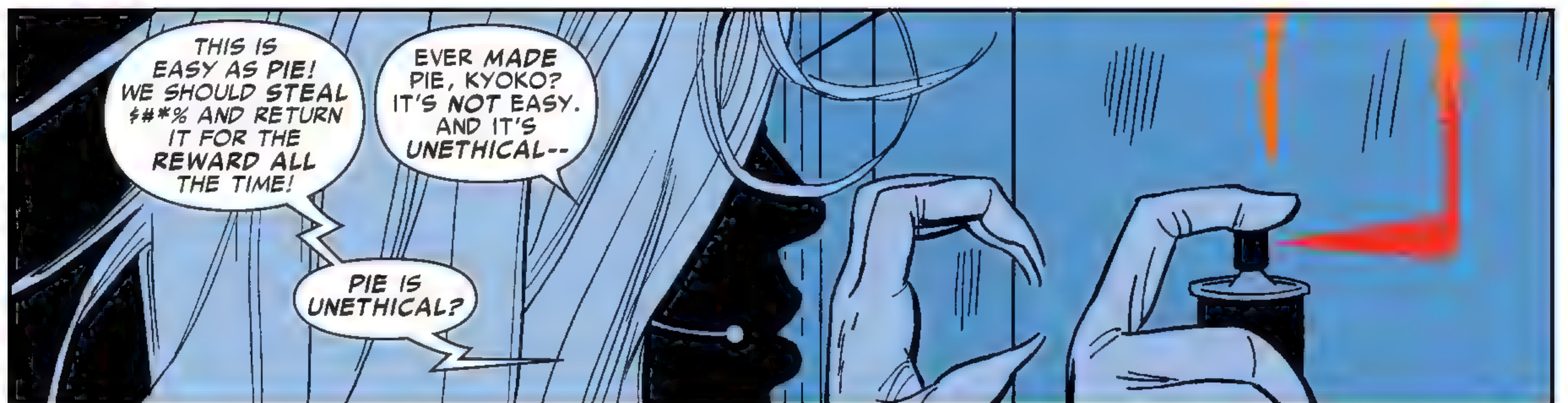
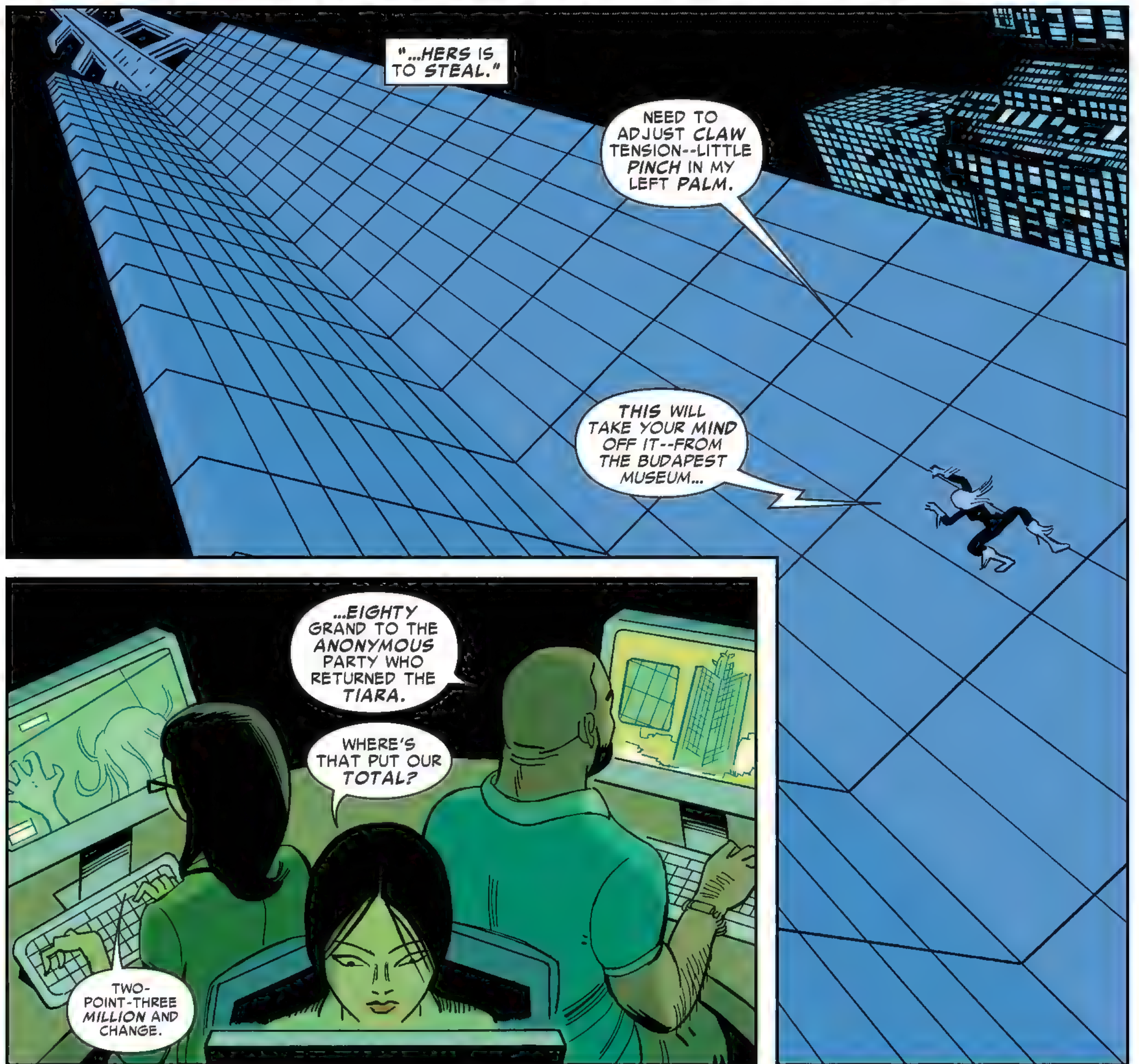
YOU ARE SO AFRAID.

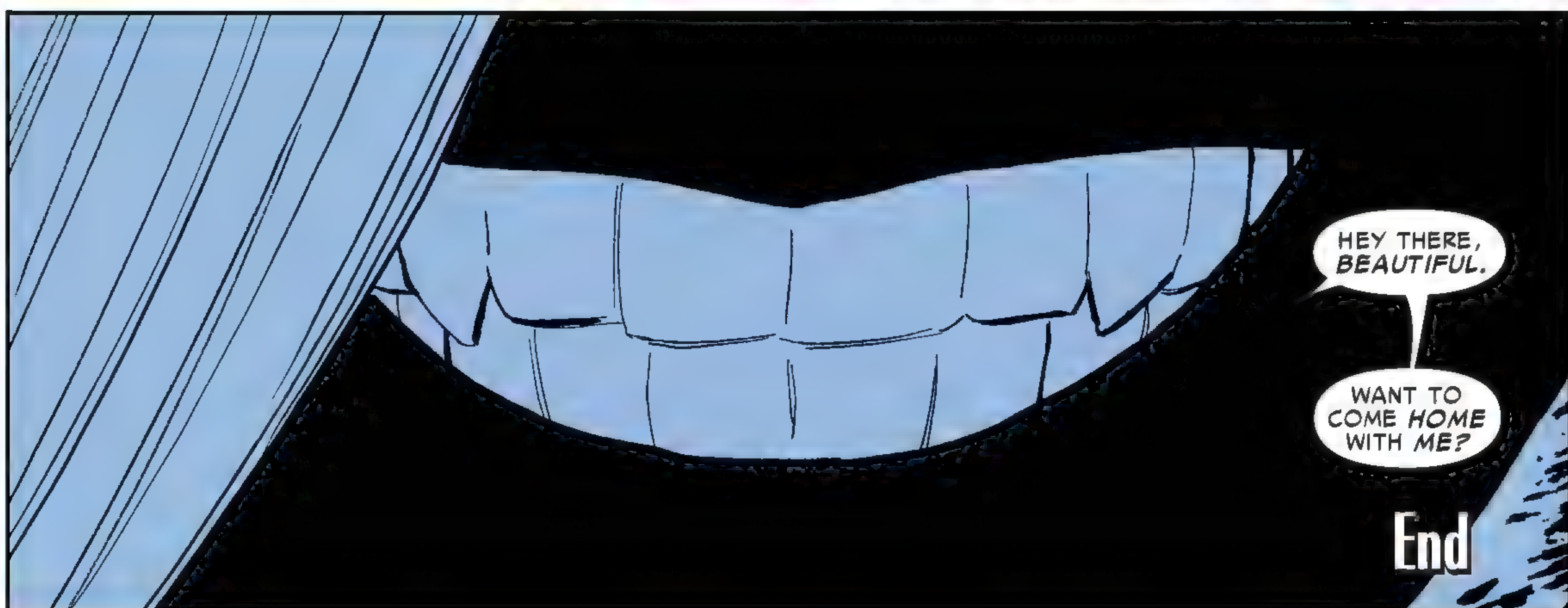
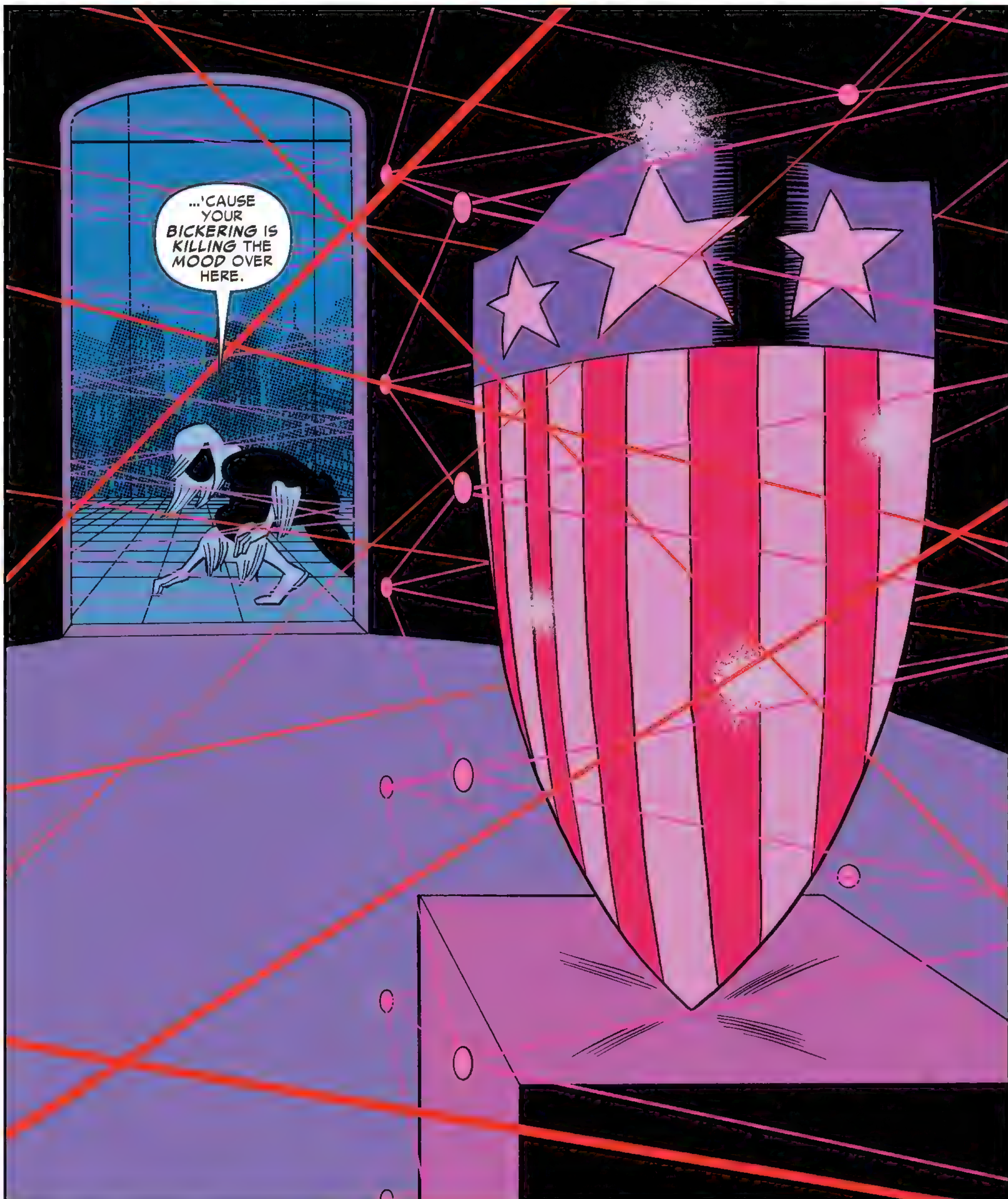
IT MAKES YOU SMELL BAD.

PLEASE, I--I KNOW THE BLACK CAT'S REAL NAME! I COULD HELP YOU FIND HER, ALL THE THINGS SHE TOOK--

HMMPH!:









THE MANY LOVES OF THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

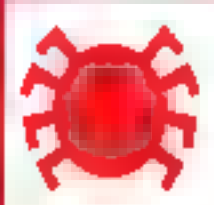
SEVERAL YEARS AGO...

Noooooo!

writer CHRIS YOST
pencils MICHAEL RYAN
inks DANNY MIKI

colors JOHN RAUCH
letters JARED K. FLETCHER
special thanks CHRIS ALLO

"the
ROOT of ALL
ANNOYANCE"



I HATE THIS.
I MEAN, SERIOUSLY.

GIVE ME SOMEONE I CAN PUNCH.
RHINO, FOR INSTANCE. I'D RATHER BE
PUNCHING THE RHINO THAN DOING THIS.

HMM. THAT SOUNDS KIND
OF DIRTY. PUNCHING THE
LIZARD? NO, THAT'S WORSE.



I'M A GENIUS SUPER HERO. HOW CAN
I NOT BALANCE A CHECKBOOK?!

I'M SO OFF, I HAVE NO IDEA HOW
MUCH MONEY I HAVE LEFT. ENOUGH
FOR PIZZA TONIGHT, I THINK. I HOPE.

HEY!



I HATE THE FACT
THAT I NEVER HAVE
ANY MONEY. I BET
IRON MAN CAN
BALANCE HIS CHECK--

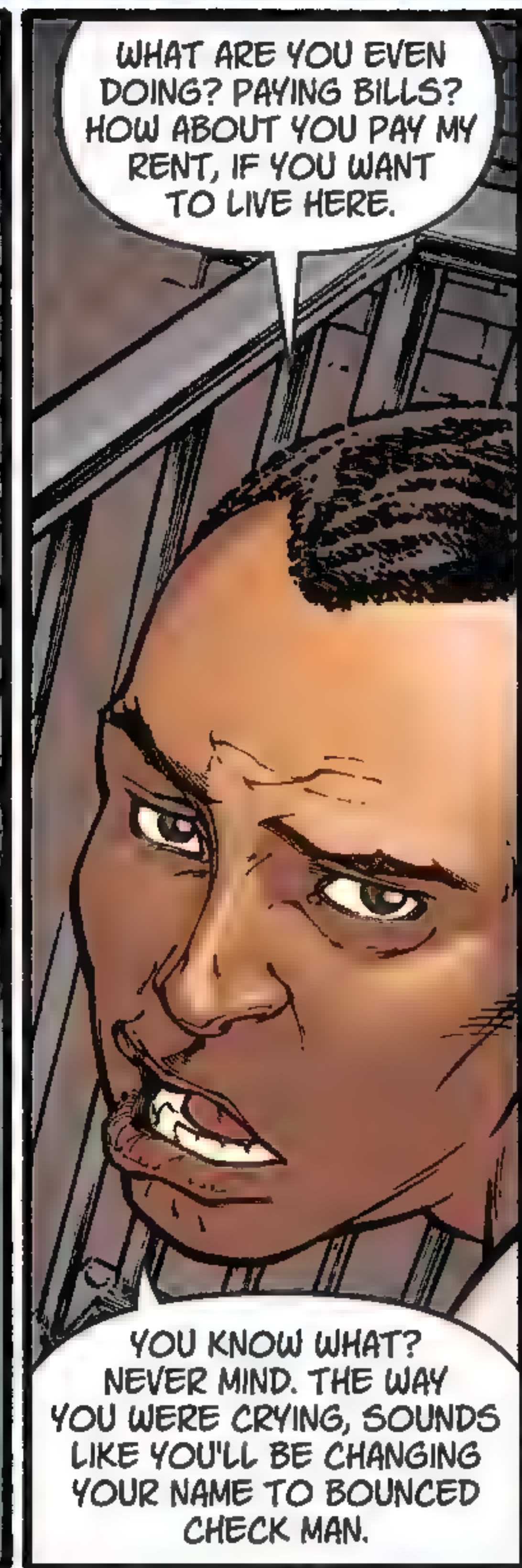
WHAT IS YOUR
PROBLEM?! YOU
DON'T SEE ME HANGING
OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW,
SCREAMING BLOODY
MURDER. GET OUT
OF HERE!

TAKE IT
EASY, PAL.
I'M GOING.



WHAT ARE YOU EVEN
DOING? PAYING BILLS?
HOW ABOUT YOU PAY MY
RENT, IF YOU WANT
TO LIVE HERE.

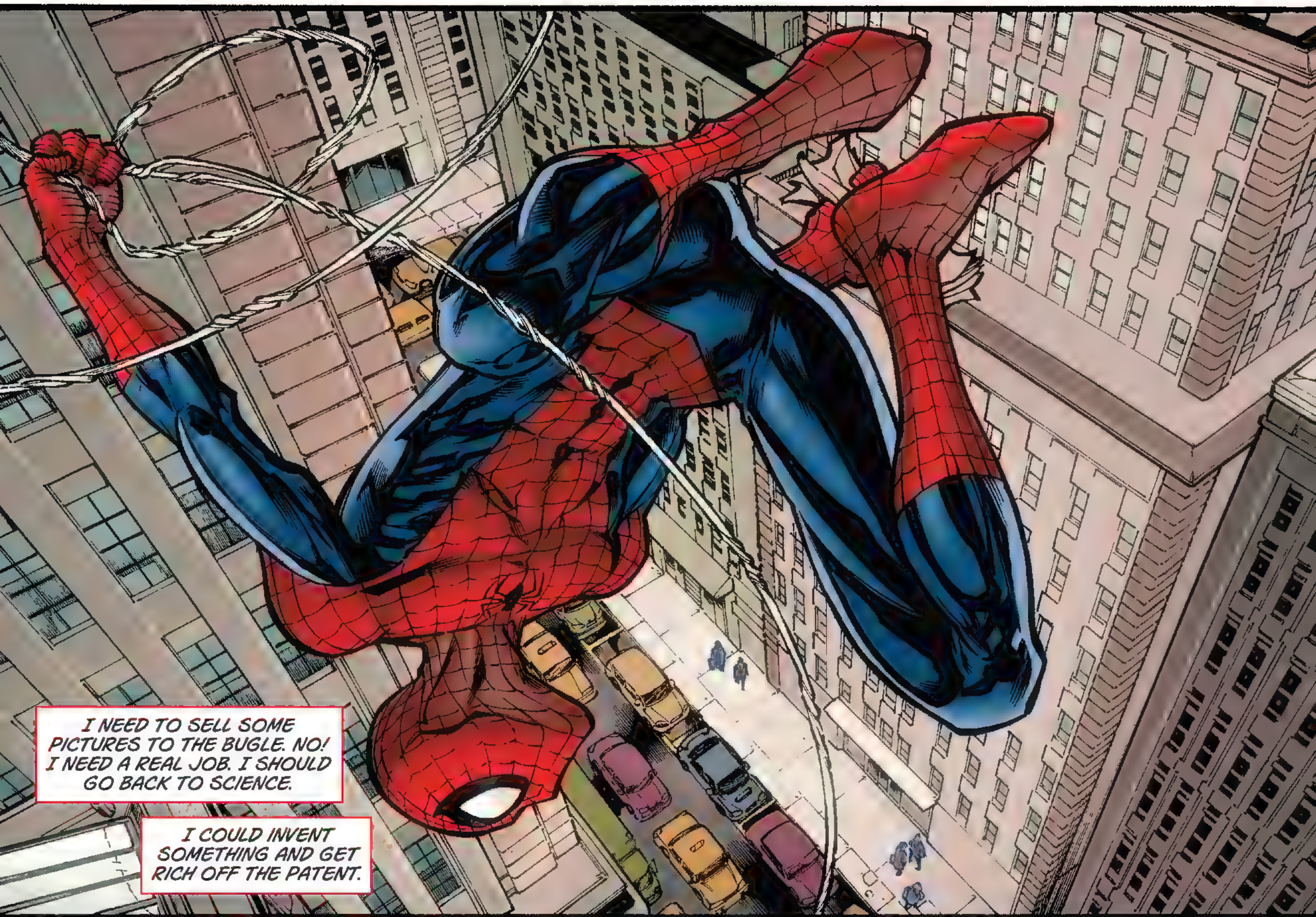
YOU KNOW WHAT?
NEVER MIND. THE WAY
YOU WERE CRYING, SOUNDS
LIKE YOU'LL BE CHANGING
YOUR NAME TO BOUNCED
CHECK MAN.



ARGH.

I HATE THIS.
AND I HATE
NEW YORK.





I NEED TO SELL SOME PICTURES TO THE BUGLE. NO! I NEED A REAL JOB. I SHOULD GO BACK TO SCIENCE.

I COULD INVENT SOMETHING AND GET RICH OFF THE PATENT.

I SHOULD HAVE HUNG OUT WITH POWER MAN AND IRON FIST MORE. IN RETROSPECT, HEROES FOR HIRE WAS GENIUS.

SO I'VE GOT MAYBE THREE DAYS TO GET SOME MONEY IN MY ACCOUNT BEFORE THESE CHECKS BOUNCE.

SPARE SOME CHANGE, BUDDY?

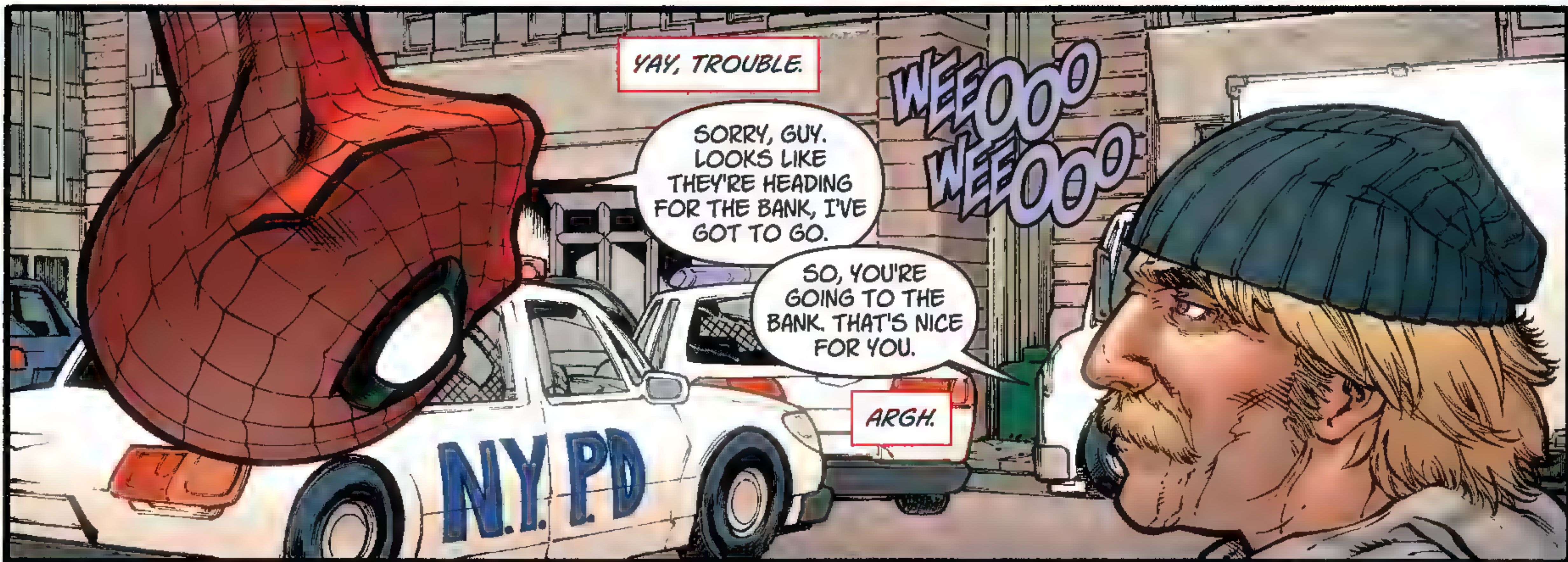


UH, SORRY. I--I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON ME.

PRETTY FANCY COSTUME FOR A GUY WITH NO MONEY.

WELL--

WEE OOO
WEE OOO



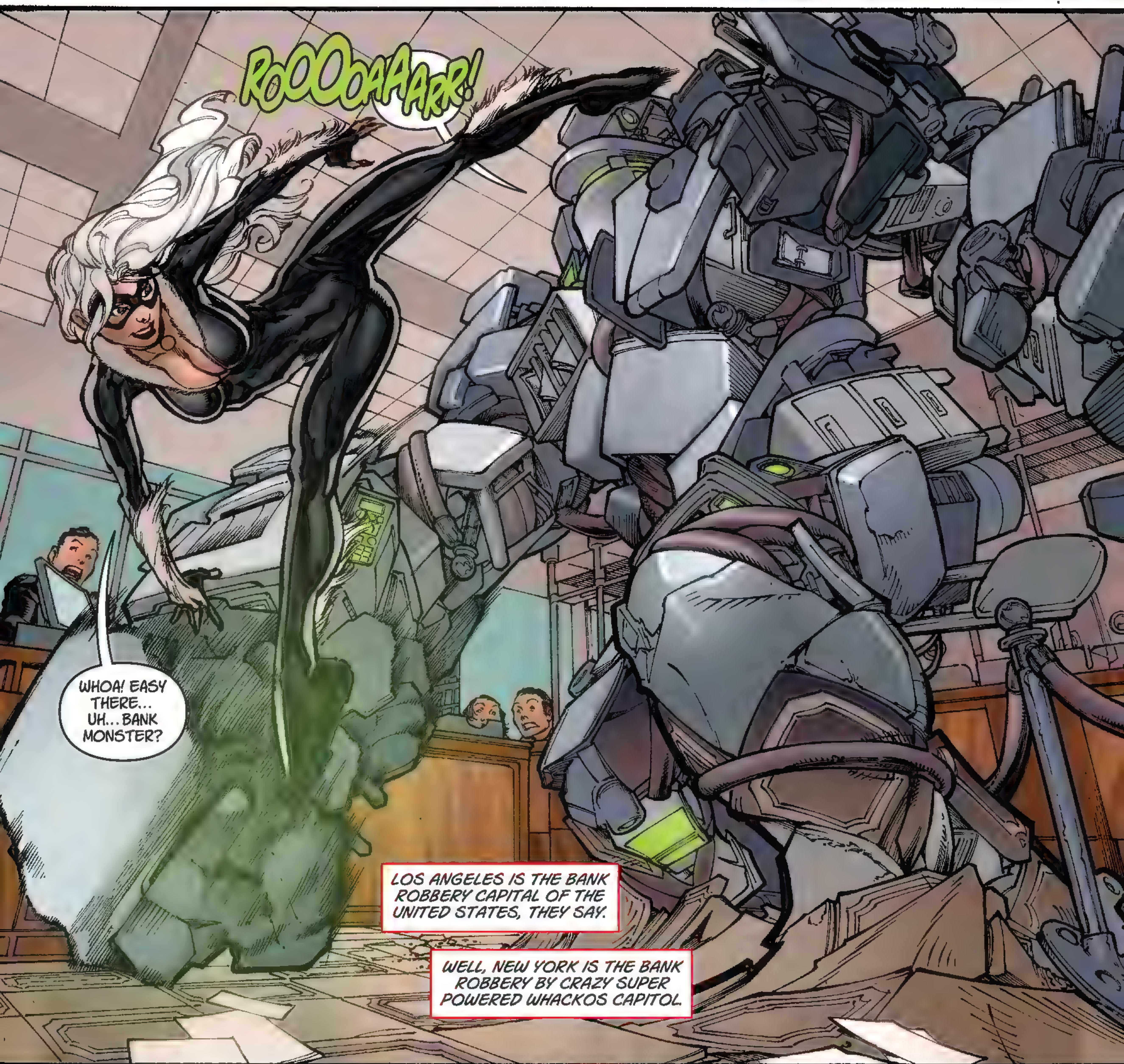
YAY, TROUBLE.

SORRY, GUY. LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE BANK, I'VE GOT TO GO.

SO, YOU'RE GOING TO THE BANK. THAT'S NICE FOR YOU.

ARGH.

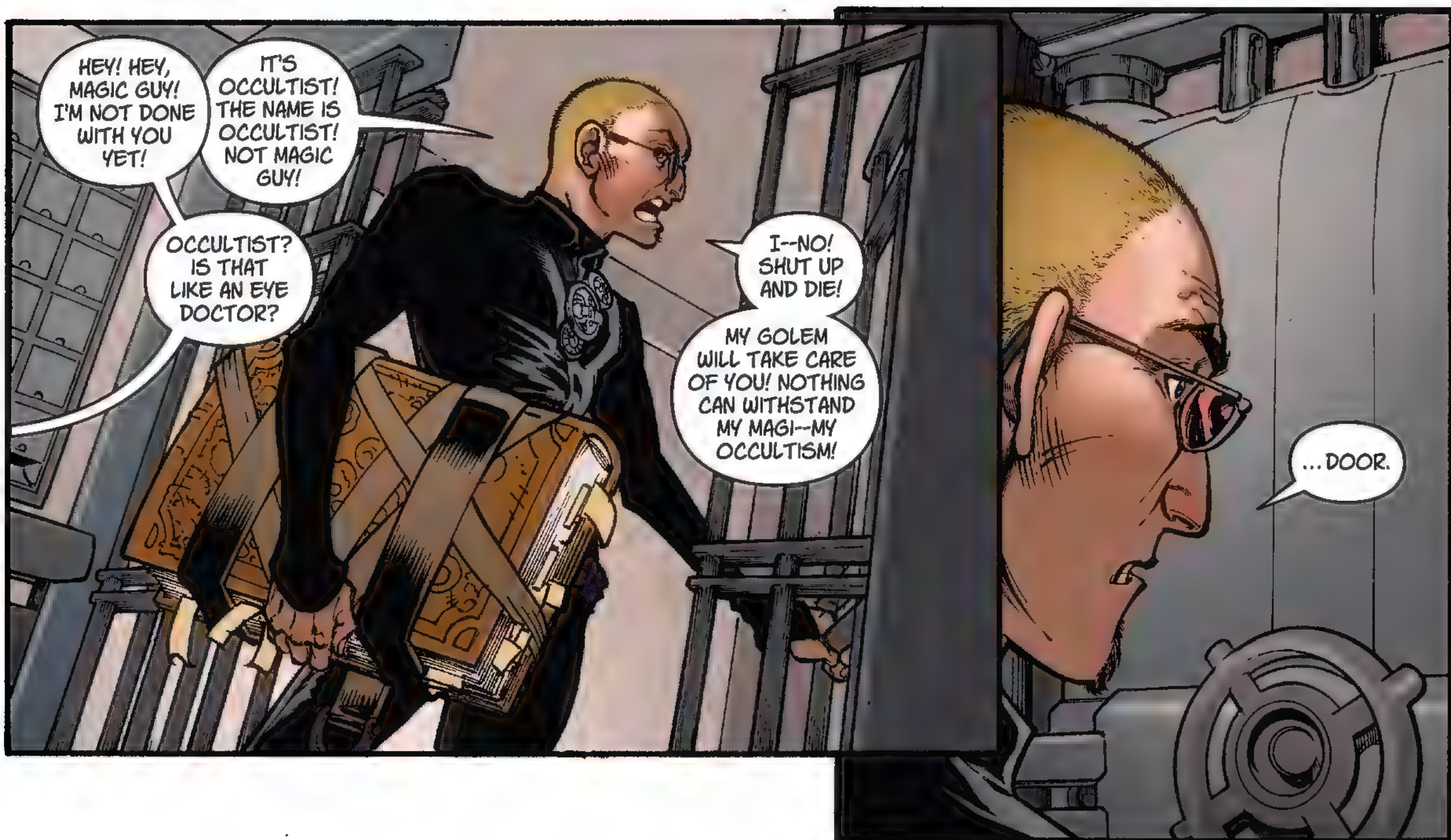
WEE OOO
WEE OOO



WHOA! EASY
THERE...
UH... BANK
MONSTER?

LOS ANGELES IS THE BANK
ROBBERY CAPITAL OF THE
UNITED STATES, THEY SAY.

WELL, NEW YORK IS THE BANK
ROBBERY BY CRAZY SUPER
POWERED WHACKOS CAPITOL.



HEY! HEY,
MAGIC GUY!
I'M NOT DONE
WITH YOU
YET!

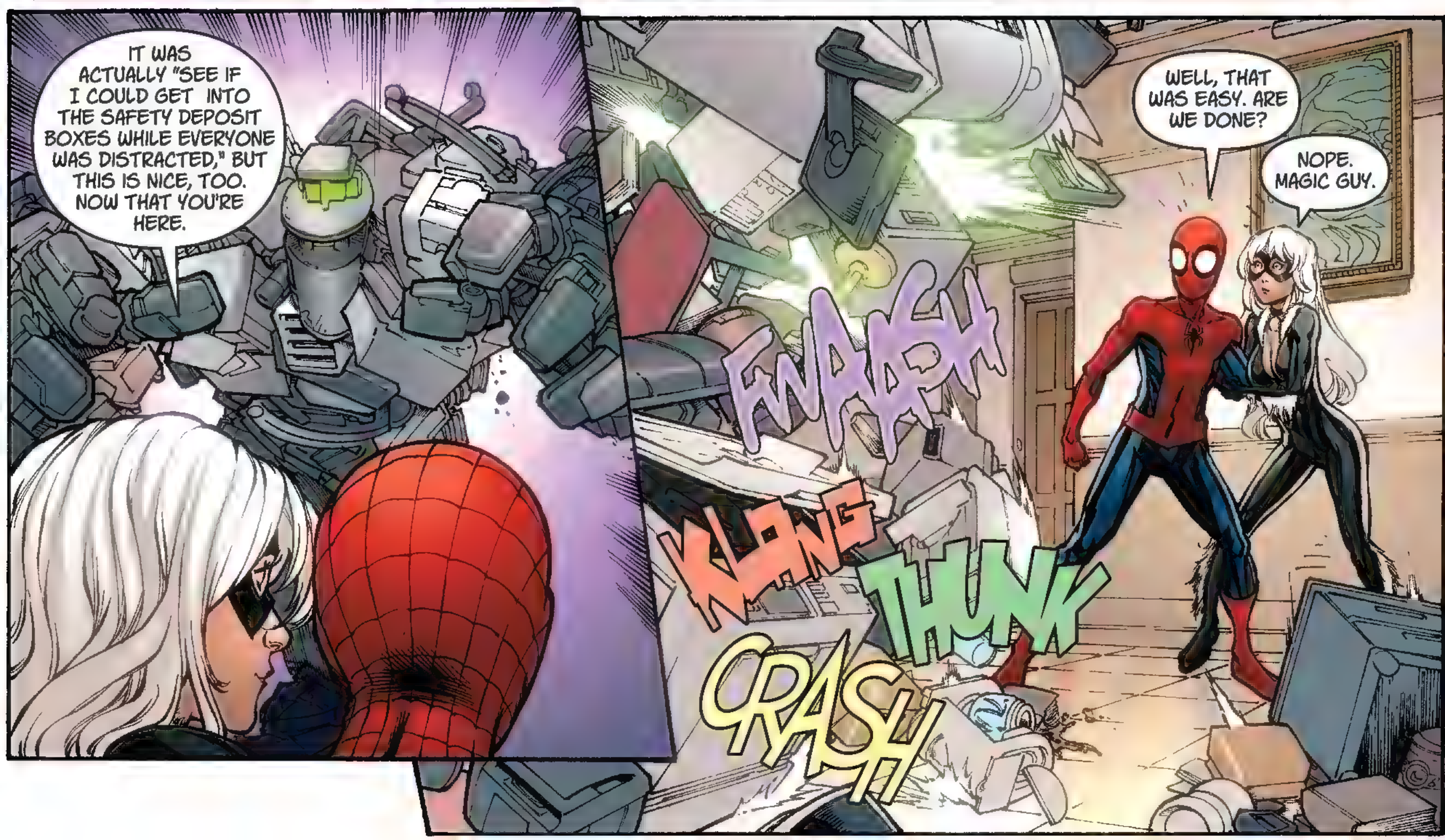
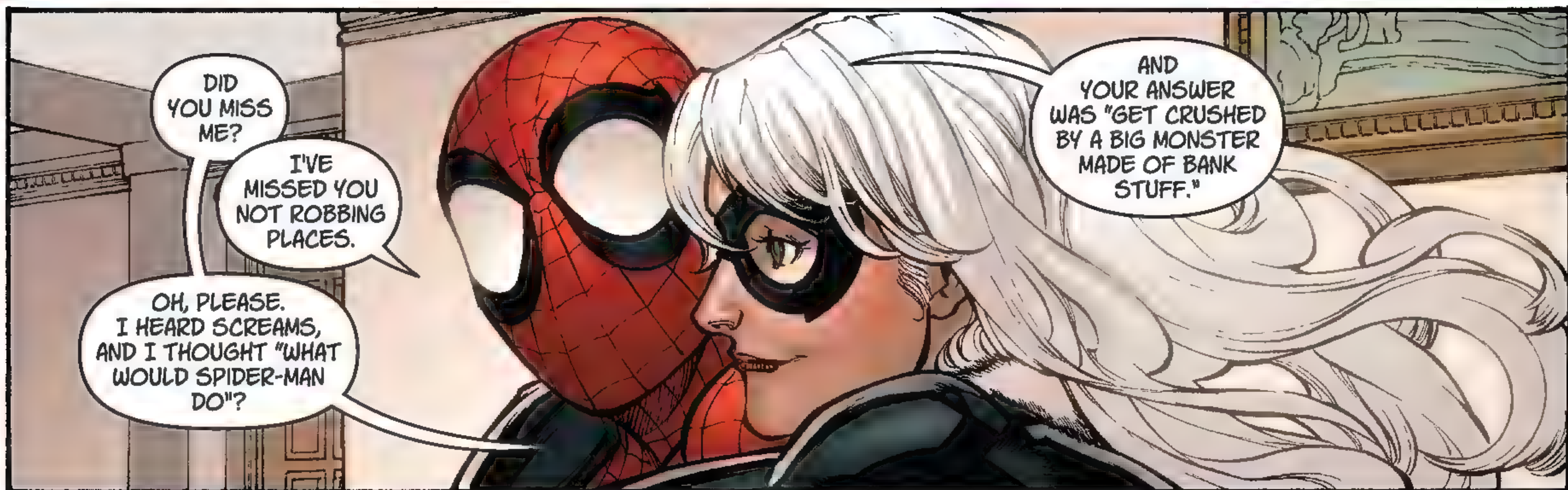
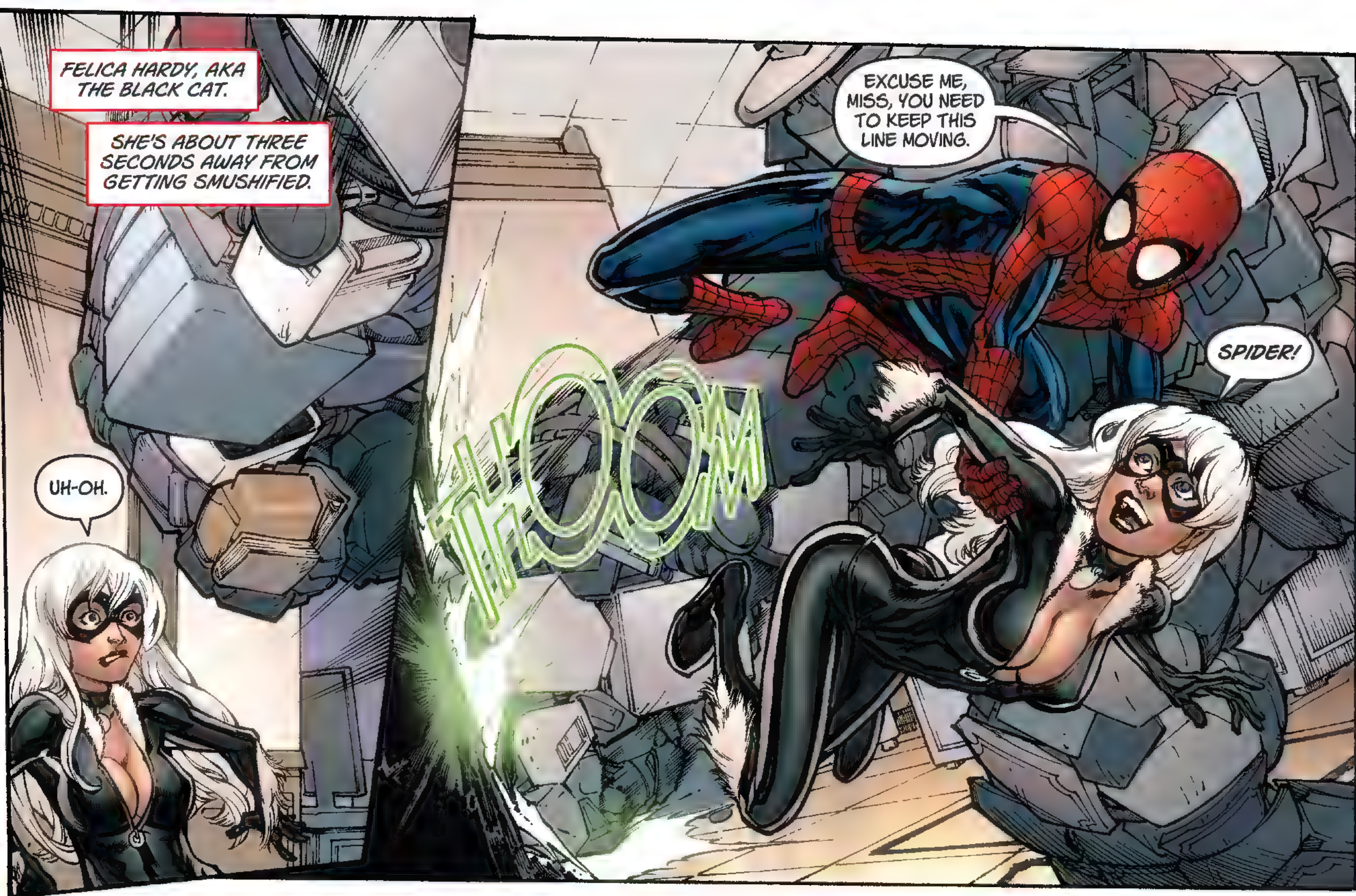
IT'S
OCCULTIST!
THE NAME IS
OCCULTIST!
NOT MAGIC
GUY!

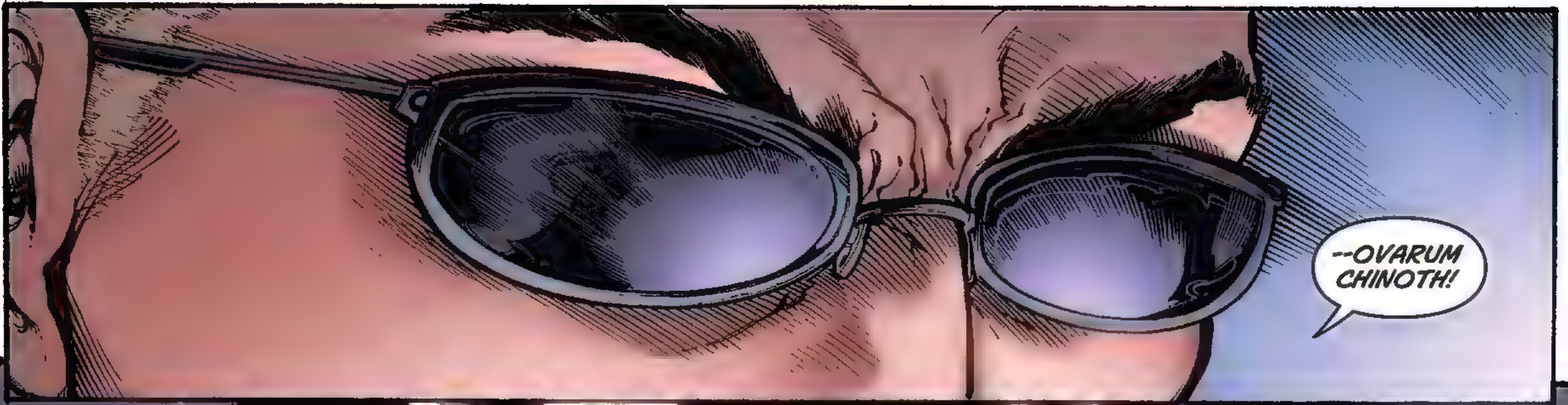
OCCULTIST?
IS THAT
LIKE AN EYE
DOCTOR?

I--NO!
SHUT UP
AND DIE!

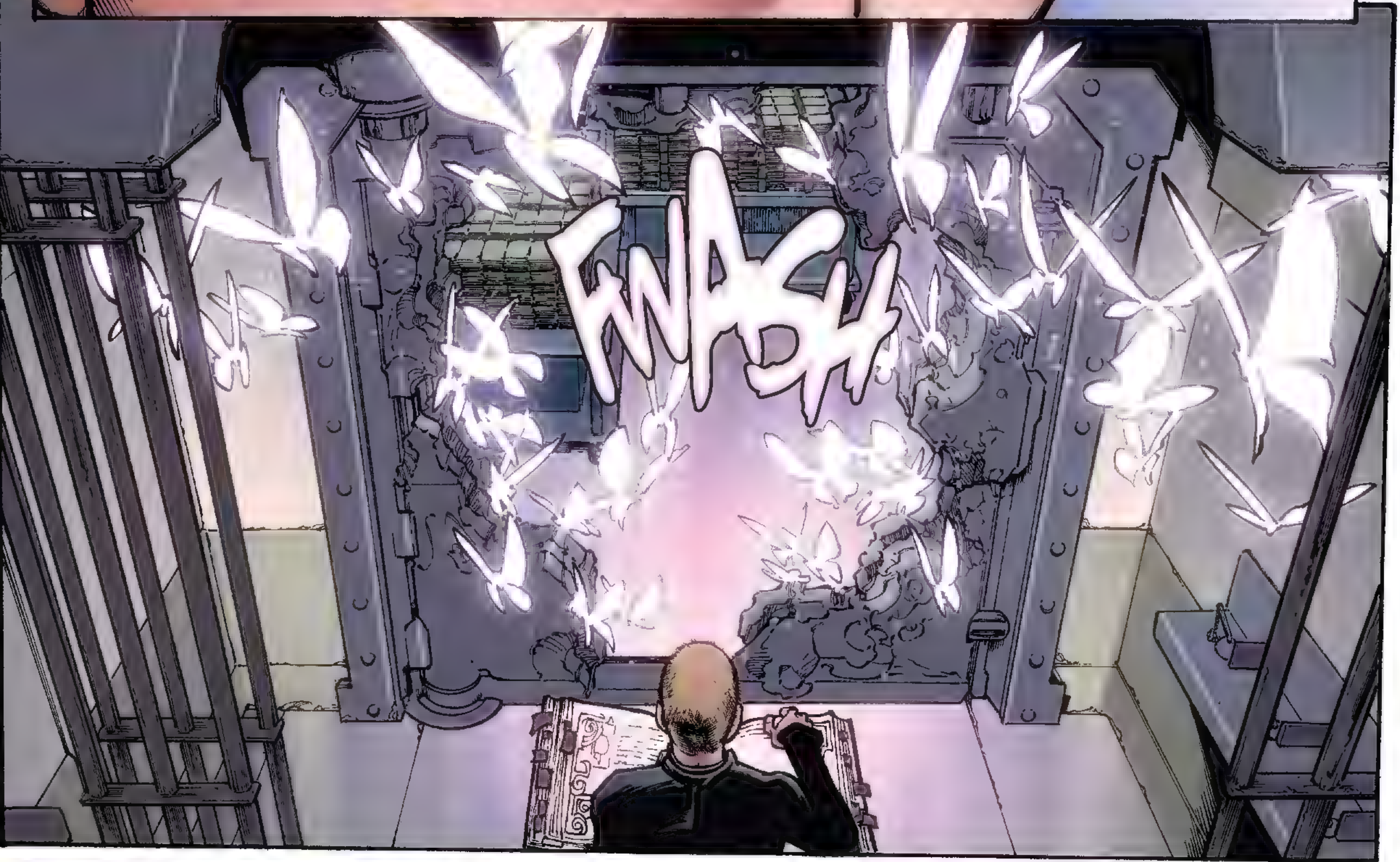
MY GOLEM
WILL TAKE CARE
OF YOU! NOTHING
CAN WITHSTAND
MY MAGI--MY
OCCULTISM!

... DOOR.





--OVARUM
CHINOTH!



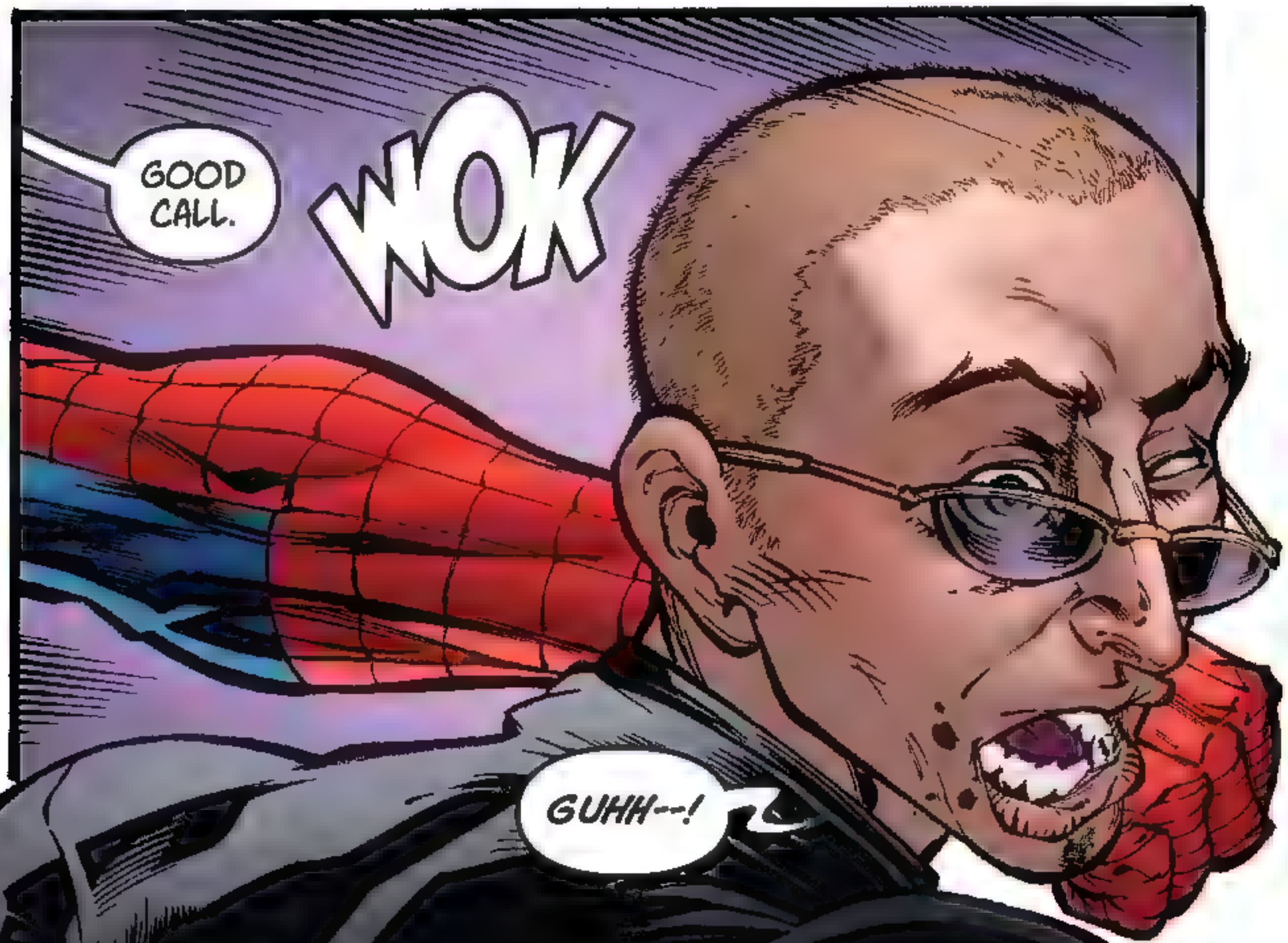
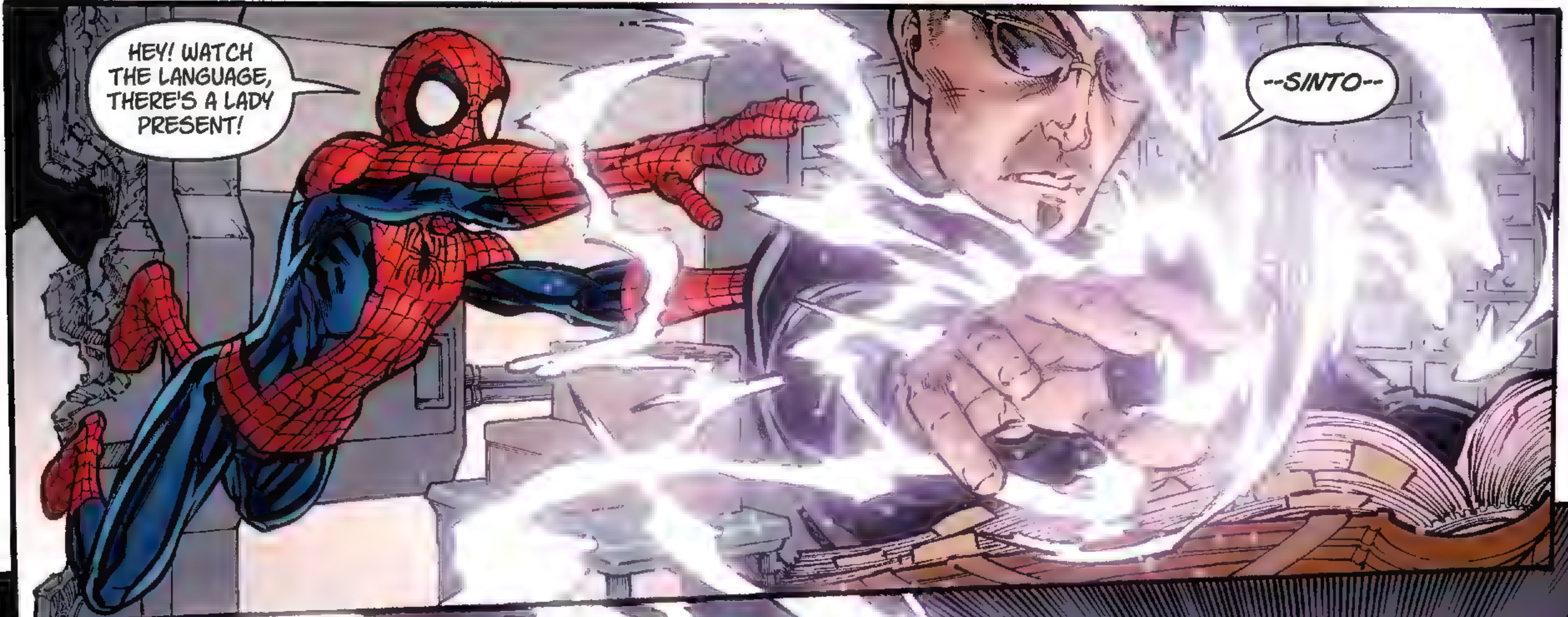
PRETTY
IMPRESSIVE.



THE MONEY,
THAT IS. NOT YOU. YOU
LOOK LIKE YOU LEARNED
MAGIC LAST WEEK. CAN YOU
ONLY DO ONE SPELL AT A
TIME? IS THAT WHY YOUR
MONSTER DISAPPEARED?
SO SAD.

WHOO.
SO WE SPLIT
THIS THREE WAYS,
RIGHT? WHAT DO
YOU SAY,
BOYS?

YOU'RE
EMBARRASSING ME,
CAT. ANYWAY, MAGIC
GUY... GAME OVER. HOW
DID YOU THINK YOU WERE
GOING TO GET ALL
THAT MONEY OUT OF
HERE? MAGIC
POCKETS?





OKAY, I'M CREEPED OUT.
HE ZAPPED ME. SORT OF. BUT MY
SPIDER-SENSE DIDN'T GO OFF.

AND NOW THE POLICE ARE HERE.
TO THANK ME, NO DOUBT.



LET ME GUESS.
YOU'RE WANTED FOR
QUESTIONING IN THE
BLAH BLAH BLAH OF
BLAH BLAH BLAH.

ER, YEAH.
YOU?

CLEAN AS
A WHISTLE. YOU
GO, I'LL HANDLE
THIS.

NO
STEALING,
CAT. DO YOU
HEAR ME?

LITTLE
OL' ME?

SWEAR!

I SWEAR!



I COUNTED IT!
DON'T MAKE
ME COME
AFTER YOU.

YOU ARE SO
CUTE WHEN YOU'RE
MISTRUSTING.
GO, ALREADY!



COME TO
MAMA, MY
PRETTIES.
I--

WHA--?

THUMP



WOW, THAT WAS A LOT OF MONEY. I'LL GIVE MAGIC GUY THAT MUCH, HE REACHED FOR THE GOLD RING.

I WONDER HOW MUCH CAT TOOK.

I WONDER WHERE SHE PUT IT. THAT COSTUME--NO! THINK CLEAN THOUGHTS!



HOME SWEET RENTED ROOM.

I COULD ASK THE BUGLE FOR AN ADVANCE FOR THE THOUSANDTH TIME. SINCE I'M OUT OF DIGNITY ALREADY.

WHY COULDN'T I HAVE BEEN BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE DIGNITY BUG? OR A MONEY BUG.



I NEED TO GIVE MYSELF A PAPER CUT FROM AN IRRADIATED HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL. I--UH-OH.

PETER! ARE YOU HOME?



I'LL BE RIGHT OUT, AUNT MAY!

WOW, GIVING HER A KEY WAS A MISTAKE.

YOUR LANDLORD CALLED ME, THEY SAID I WAS YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT. HE SEEMED TO THINK THAT YOU WERE BEHIND ON YOUR RENT PAYMENTS...



THAAAAT'S JUST FANTASTIC. WHY AM I THE WORST TENANT EVER? WHY CAN'T I JUST HAVE A NORMAL JOB, AND HAVE ACTUAL MONEY LIKE NORMAL--

--PEOPLE?

FWAMP





WHAT WAS THAT?

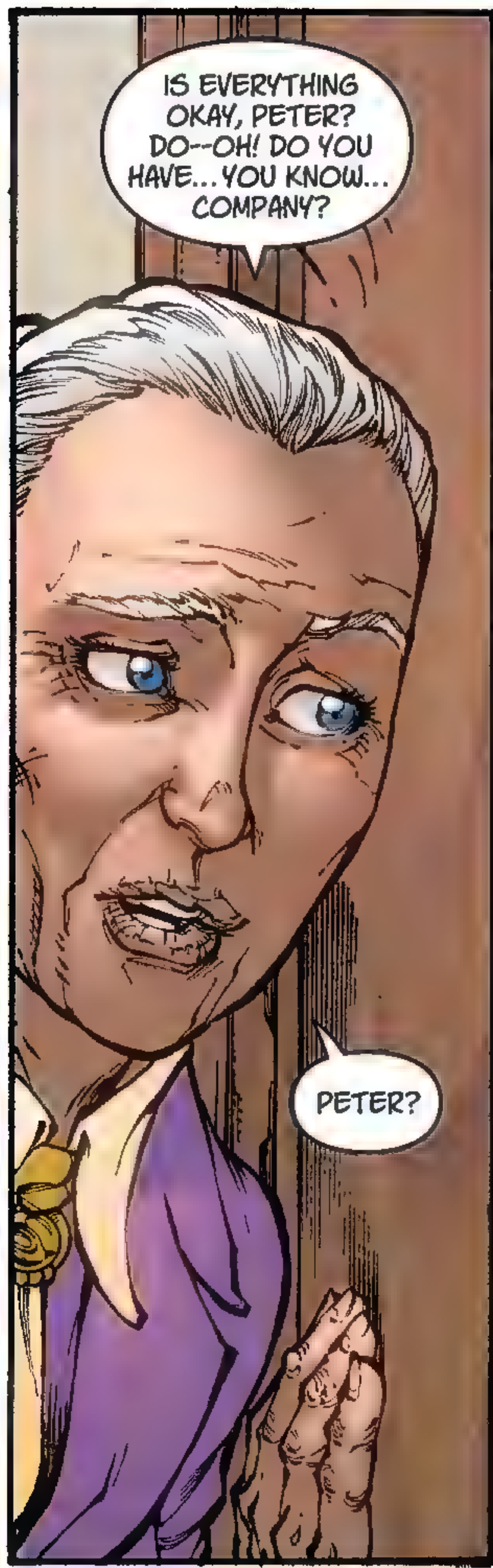
I, UH, DROPPED... MYSELF.

OKAY, THIS LOOKS BAD.



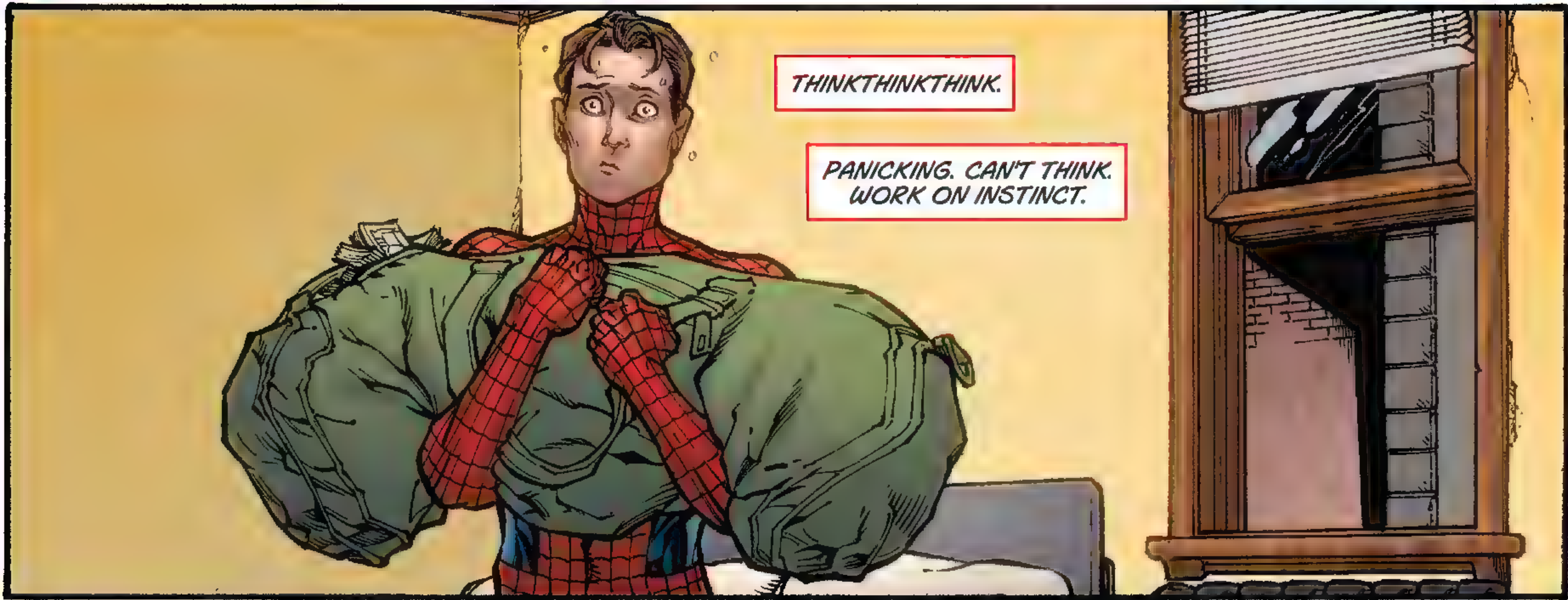
IT HAD TO BE MAGIC GUY. THAT SPELL HE ZAPPED ME WITH MUST HAVE BEEN BY MISTAKE... THAT'S HOW HE WAS GOING TO GET THE MONEY OUT.

HANG ON, I'LL BE RIGHT OUT!
GET UNDER.



IS EVERYTHING OKAY, PETER? DO--OH! DO YOU HAVE... YOU KNOW... COMPANY?

PETER?



THINKTHINKTHINK.

PANICKING. CAN'T THINK. WORK ON INSTINCT.



INSTINCTS BAD.



OKAY, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IS HEAVY.

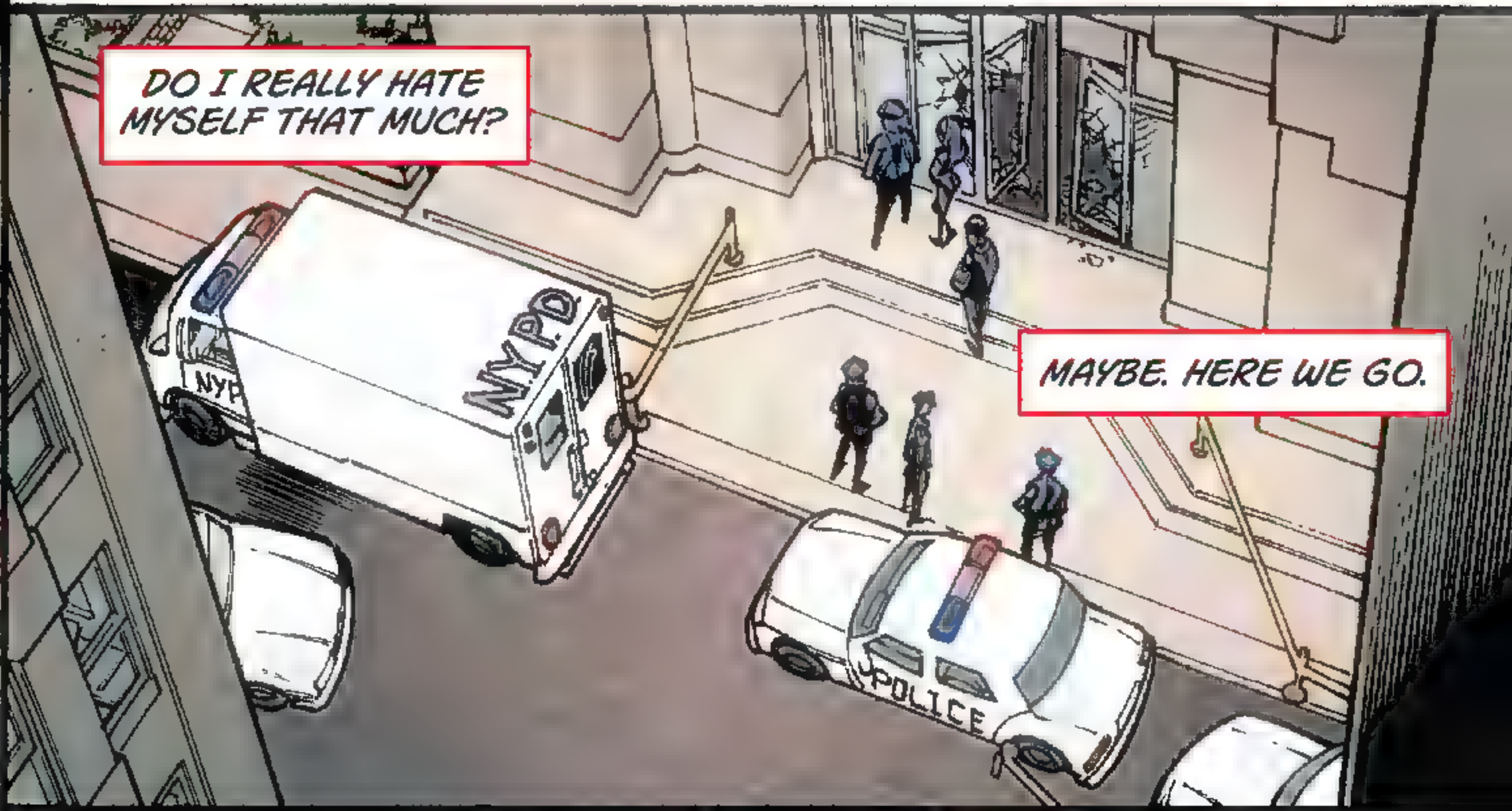
I HAVE TO GET RID OF THIS. EVERYONE WILL THINK I STOLE IT. JJJ WILL HAVE A FIELD DAY IF SOMEONE GETS A PICTURE OF ME WITH...

HM. MAYBE I COULD TAKE A QUICK PICTURE...



DO I REALLY HATE MYSELF THAT MUCH?

MAYBE. HERE WE GO.

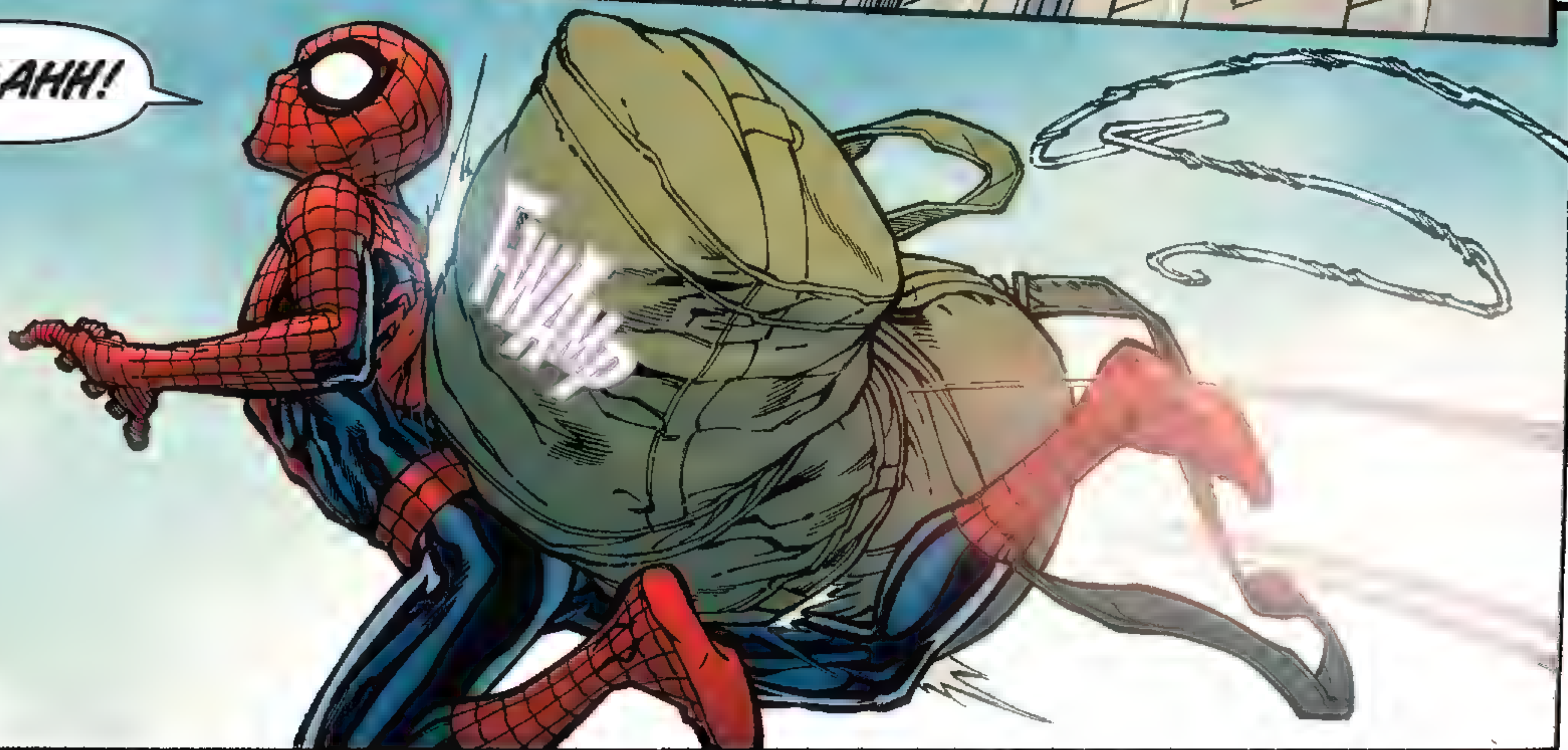


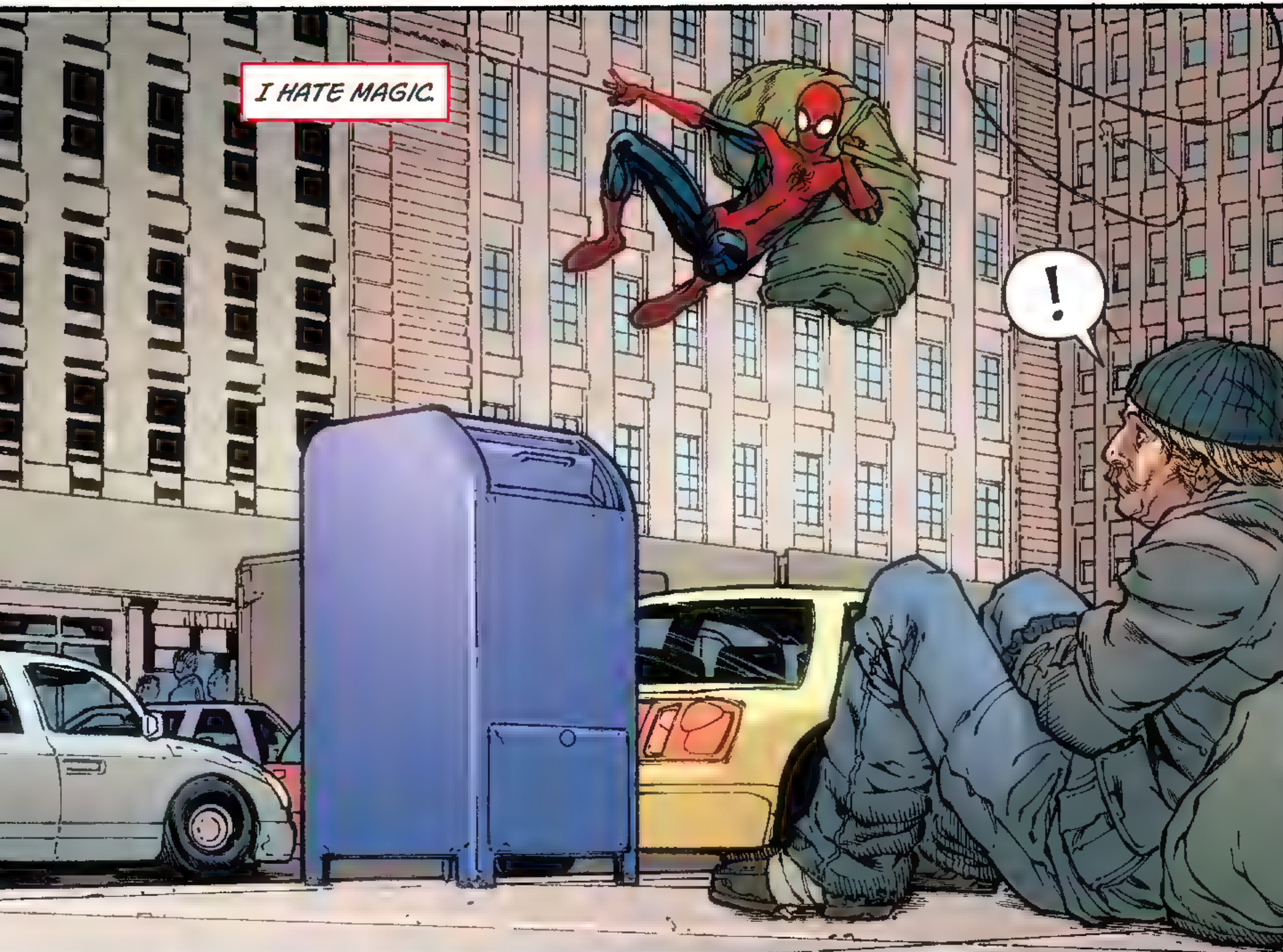
OKAY, MONEY. YOU'RE HOME. NOW STAY!



AAAAAND NOW I'M POOR AGAIN. GREAT. I NEED TO--

AAAAHH!





I HATE MAGIC.

!



NO SPARE CHANGE?! I SEE MONEY STICKING OUT OF YOUR BAG, CHEAPSKATE!

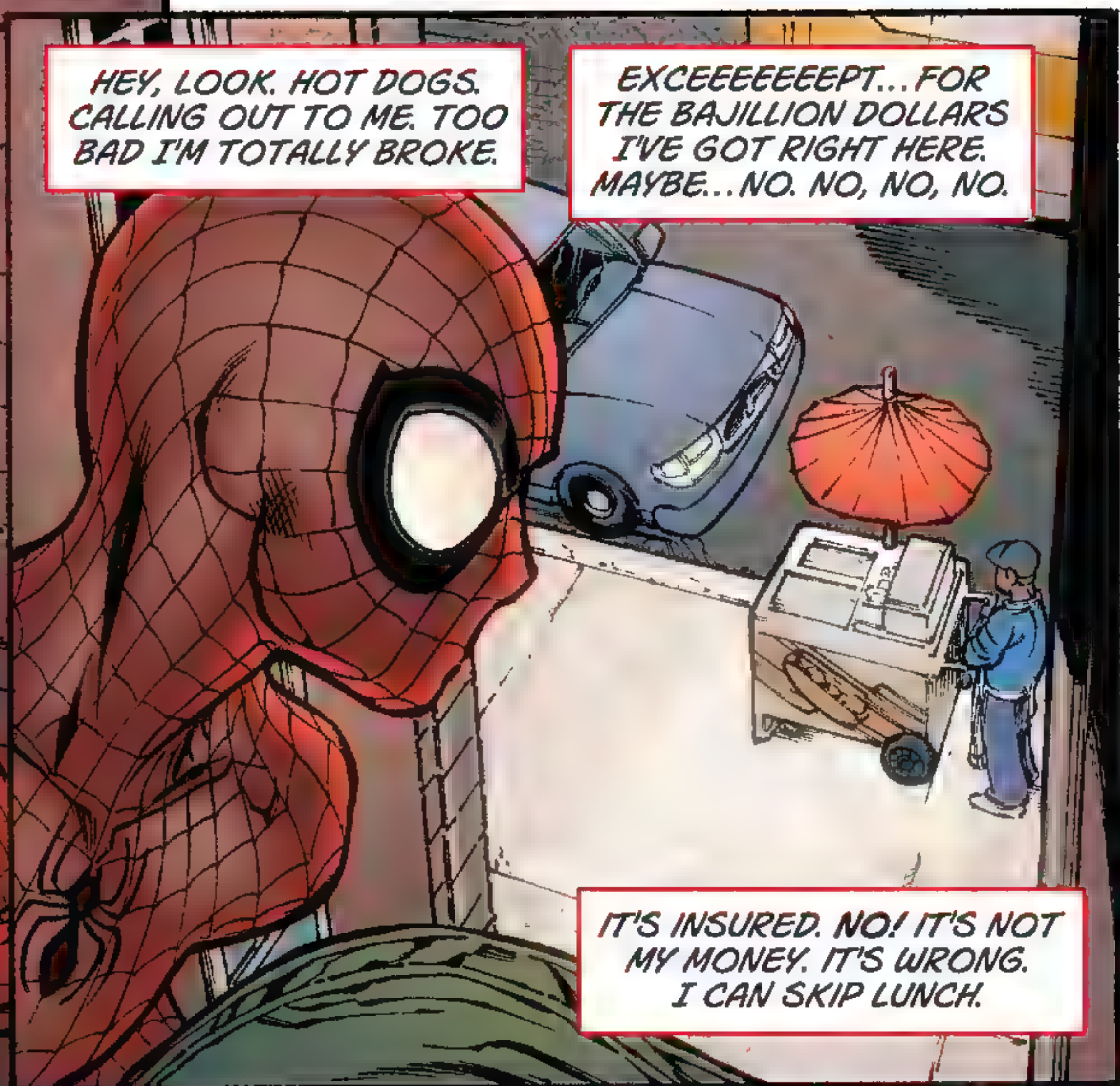
GREAT.



OKAY. I NEED TO REALLY THINK NOW. ALL MY THINKING BEFORE WAS JUST A WARM-UP. IS THIS A DOCTOR STRANGE-LEVEL PROBLEM?

NO. WONG WOULD JUST LAUGH AT ME. I CAN DEAL WITH THIS.

I'M HUNGRY.



HEY, LOOK. HOT DOGS. CALLING OUT TO ME. TOO BAD I'M TOTALLY BROKE.

EXCEEEEEEEPT... FOR THE BAJILLION DOLLARS I'VE GOT RIGHT HERE. MAYBE... NO. NO, NO, NO.

IT'S INSURED. NO! IT'S NOT MY MONEY. IT'S WRONG. I CAN SKIP LUNCH.



YOU SHOULD INVEST THAT MONEY.

THANKS FOR THE TIP.



WELL, AT LEAST I KNOW
THIS MONEY CAN'T
BUY ME HAPPINESS.

A HOUSE. CLOTHES.
WEB-FLUID. FOOD. A CAR.
STUFF. FOOD. DIGNITY.
BUT NOT HAPPINESS.



WHOA!

AND NOW SOMEONE
IS SHOOTING AT ME.



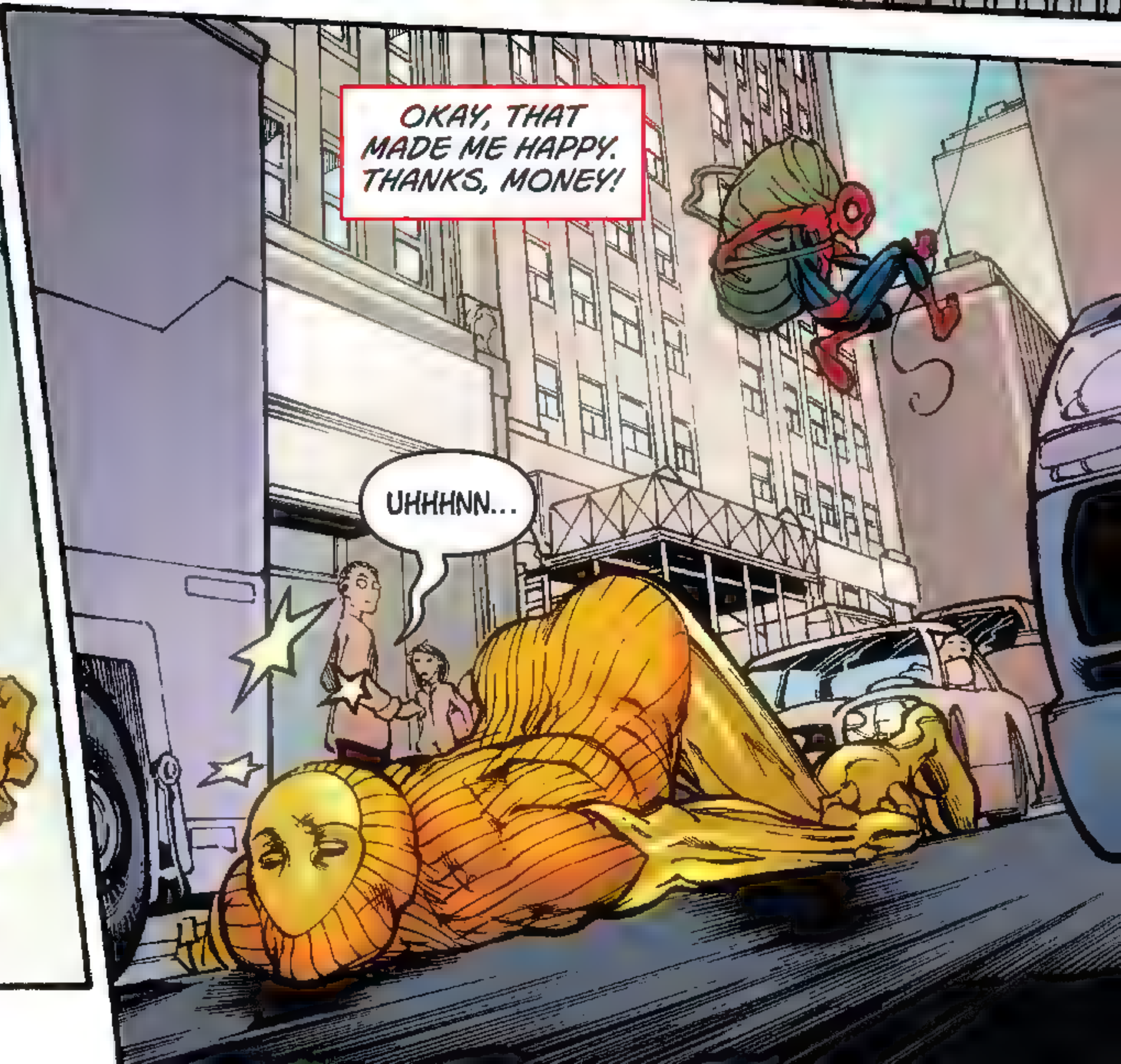
IT ENDS HERE,
SPIDER-MAN!

NOW YOU
FALL BENEATH
THE FURY OF
LIGHTMASTER!



AACK!

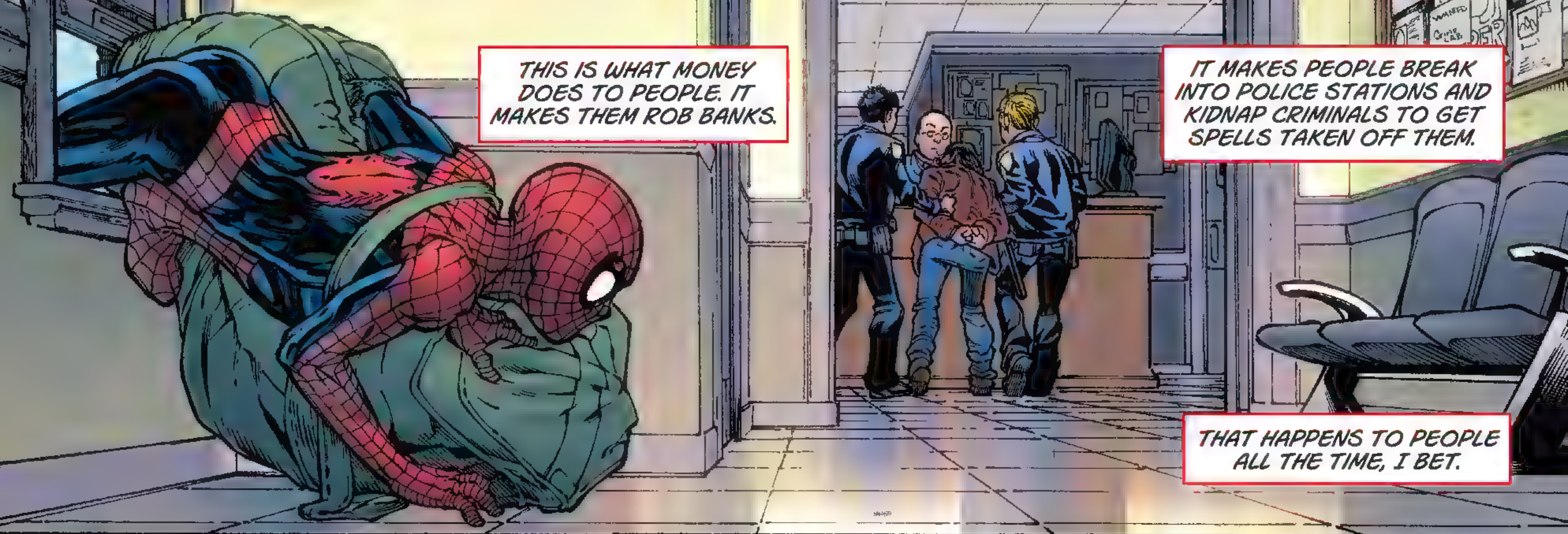
FWAMP



OKAY, THAT
MADE ME HAPPY.
THANKS, MONEY!

UHHNN...





THIS IS WHAT MONEY DOES TO PEOPLE. IT MAKES THEM ROB BANKS.

IT MAKES PEOPLE BREAK INTO POLICE STATIONS AND KIDNAP CRIMINALS TO GET SPELLS TAKEN OFF THEM.

THAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE ALL THE TIME, I BET.

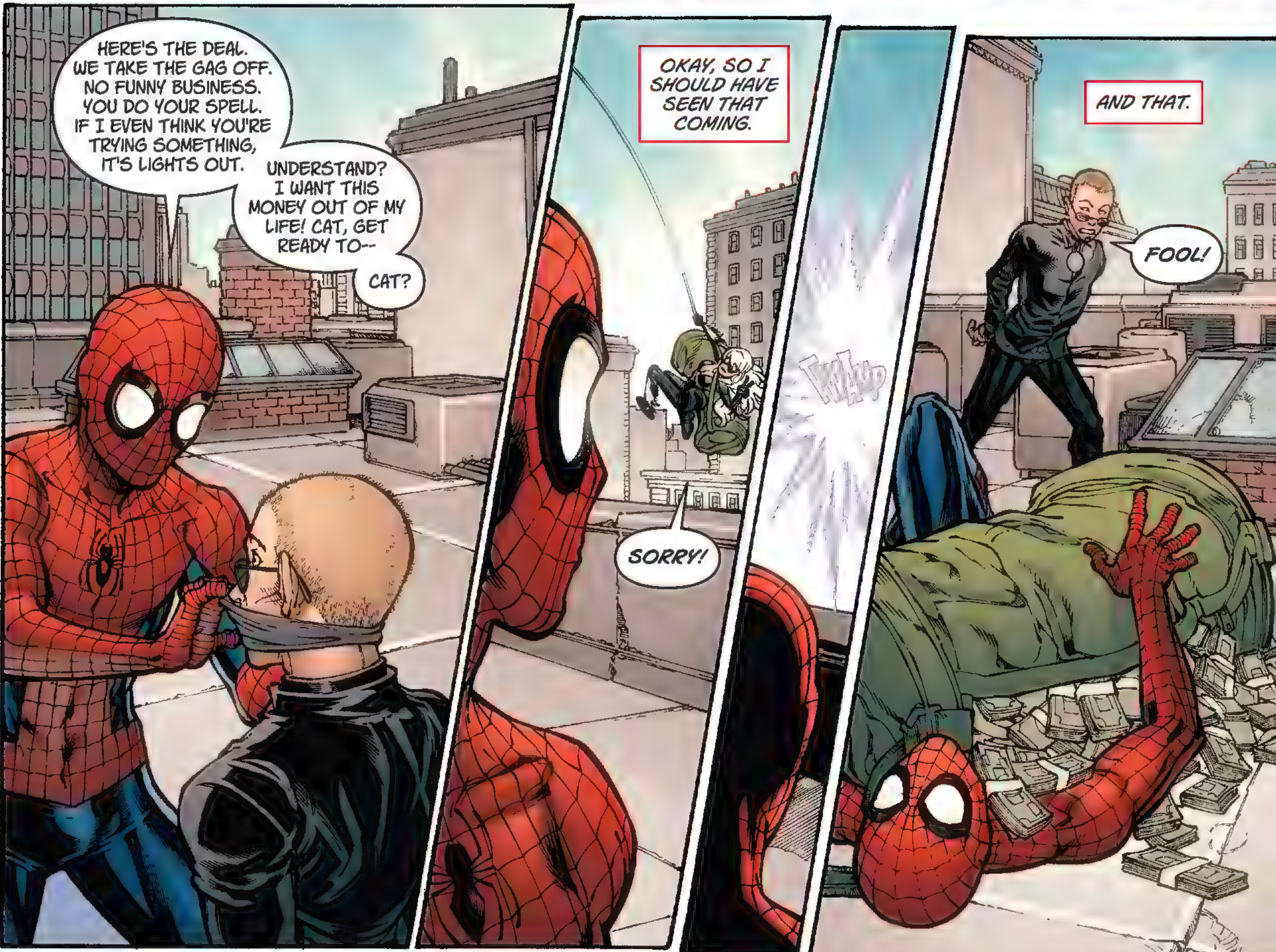


HI, SUNSHINE. DON'T FREAK OUT. WE NEED TO BORROW YOU FOR A MOMENT.

THIS CAN END TWO WAYS. YOU IN JAIL FEELING GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF FOR HELPING US, OR YOU IN JAIL ALL SAD BECAUSE WE JUST BEAT YOU UP. EVEN MORE THAN BEFORE.

YOU CHOOSE.

HRMF! HRFF!



HERE'S THE DEAL. WE TAKE THE GAG OFF. NO FUNNY BUSINESS. YOU DO YOUR SPELL. IF I EVEN THINK YOU'RE TRYING SOMETHING, IT'S LIGHTS OUT.

UNDERSTAND? I WANT THIS MONEY OUT OF MY LIFE! CAT, GET READY TO--

CAT?

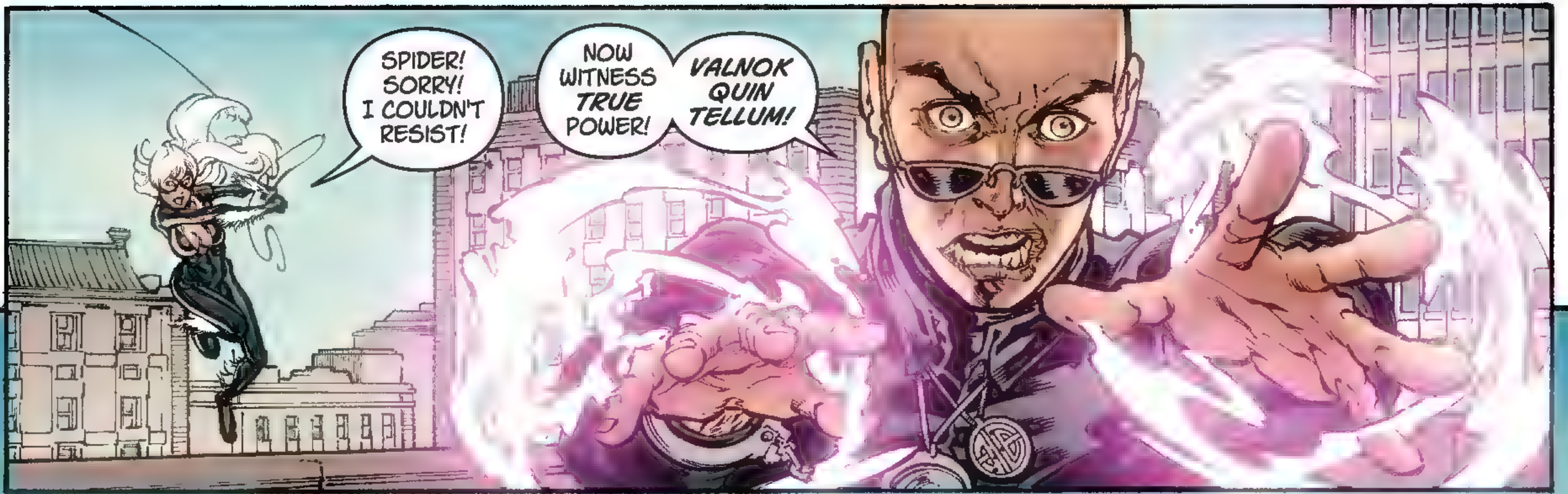
OKAY, SO I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THAT COMING.

AND THAT.

FOOL!

SORRY!

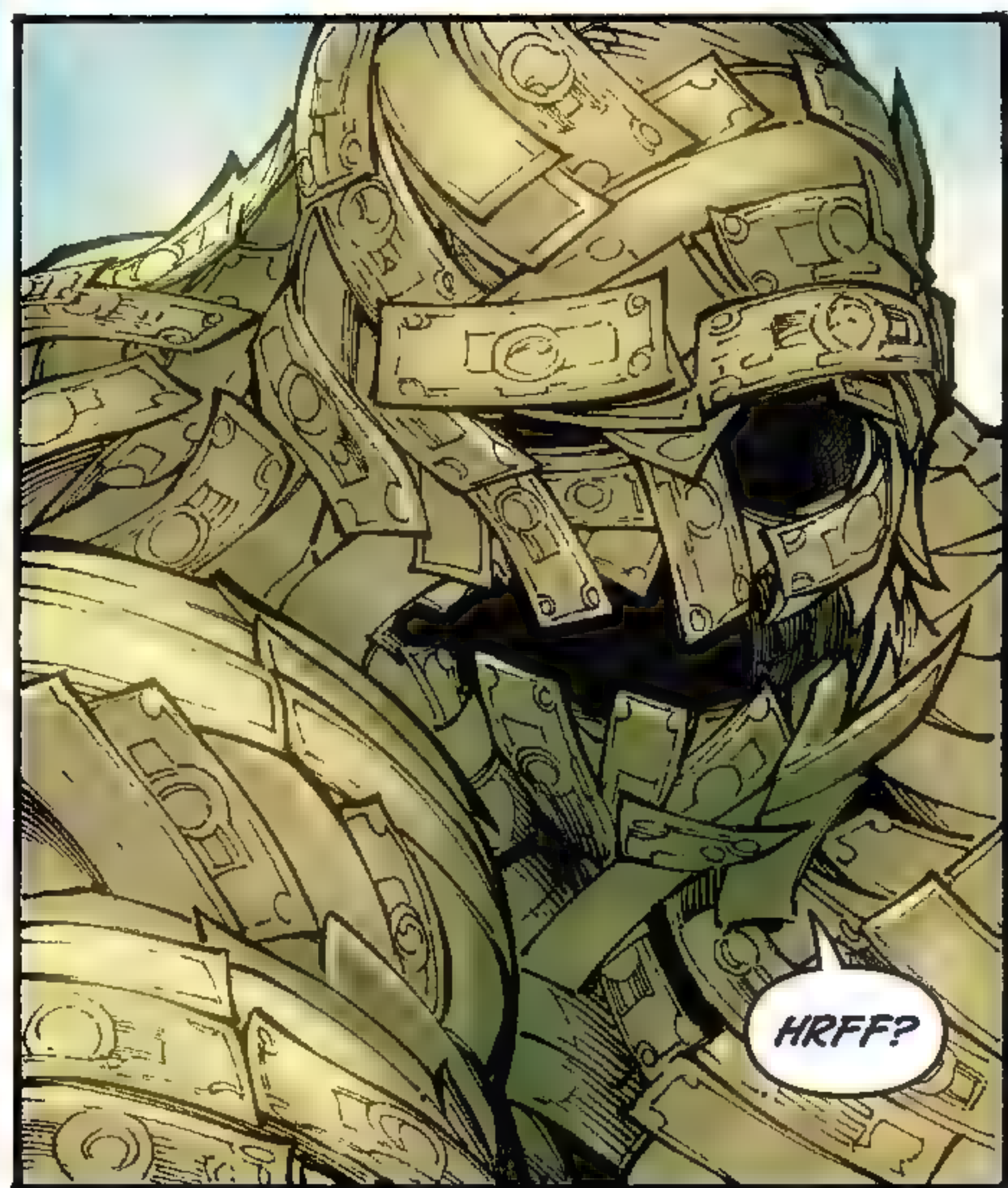
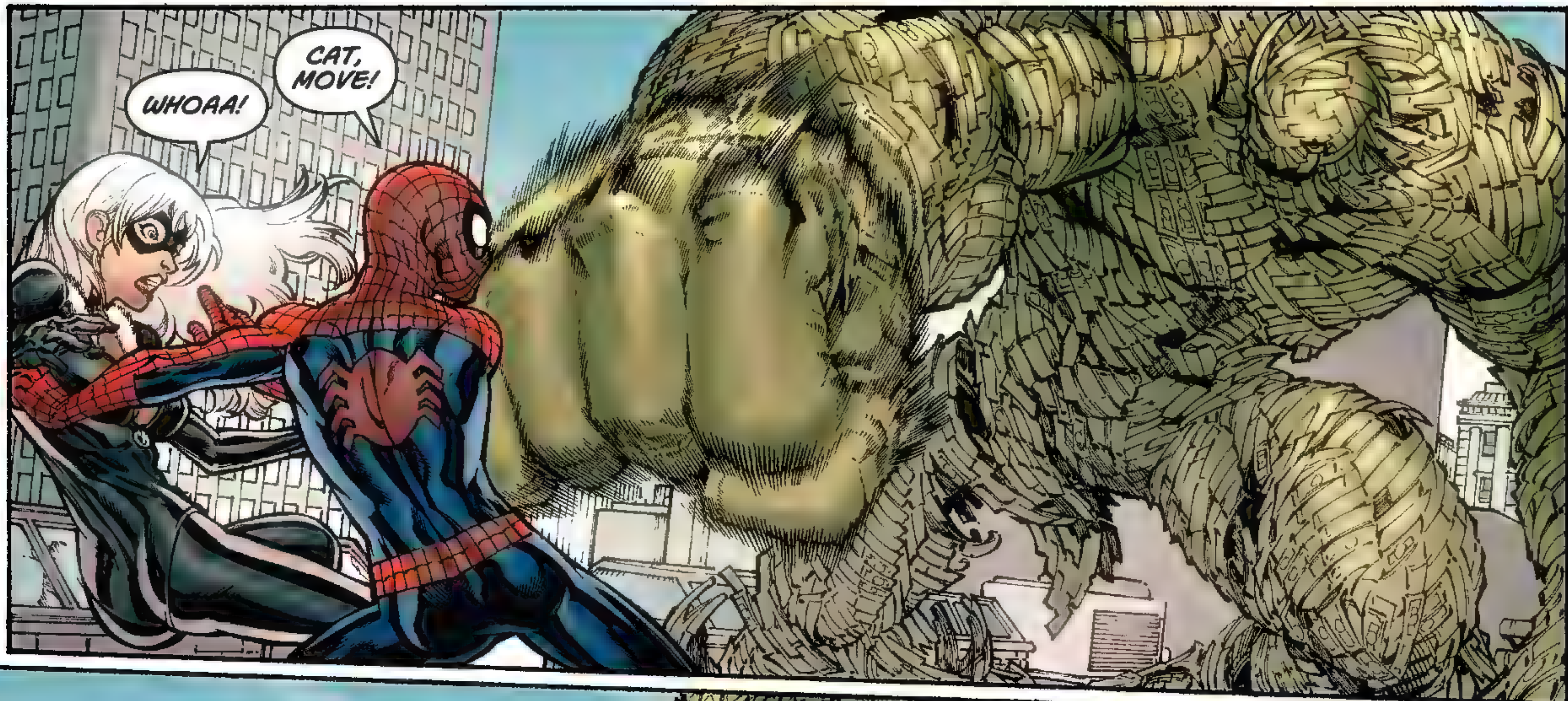
Wump



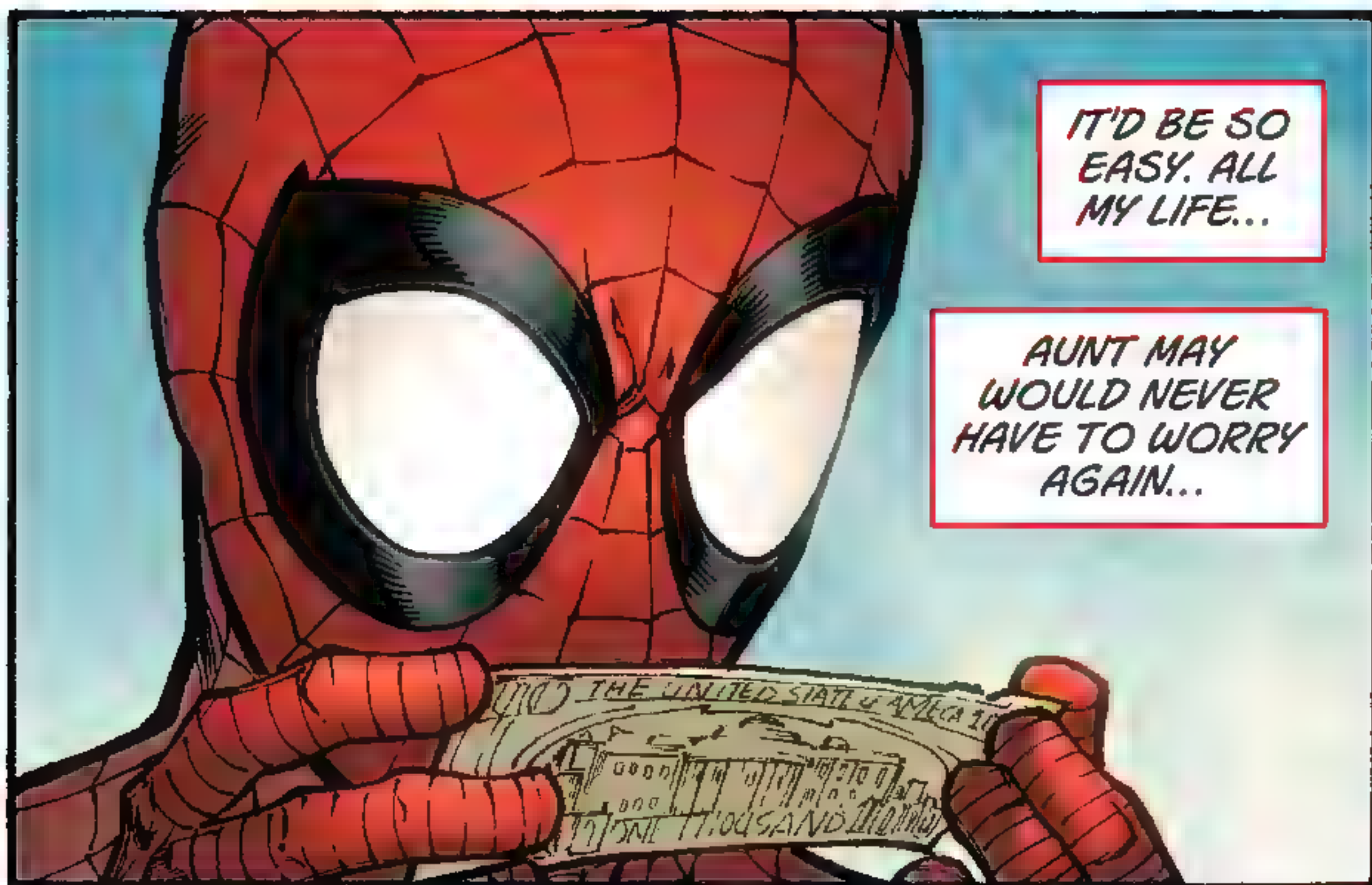
DAMN YOU,
BENJAMIN
FRANKLIN.

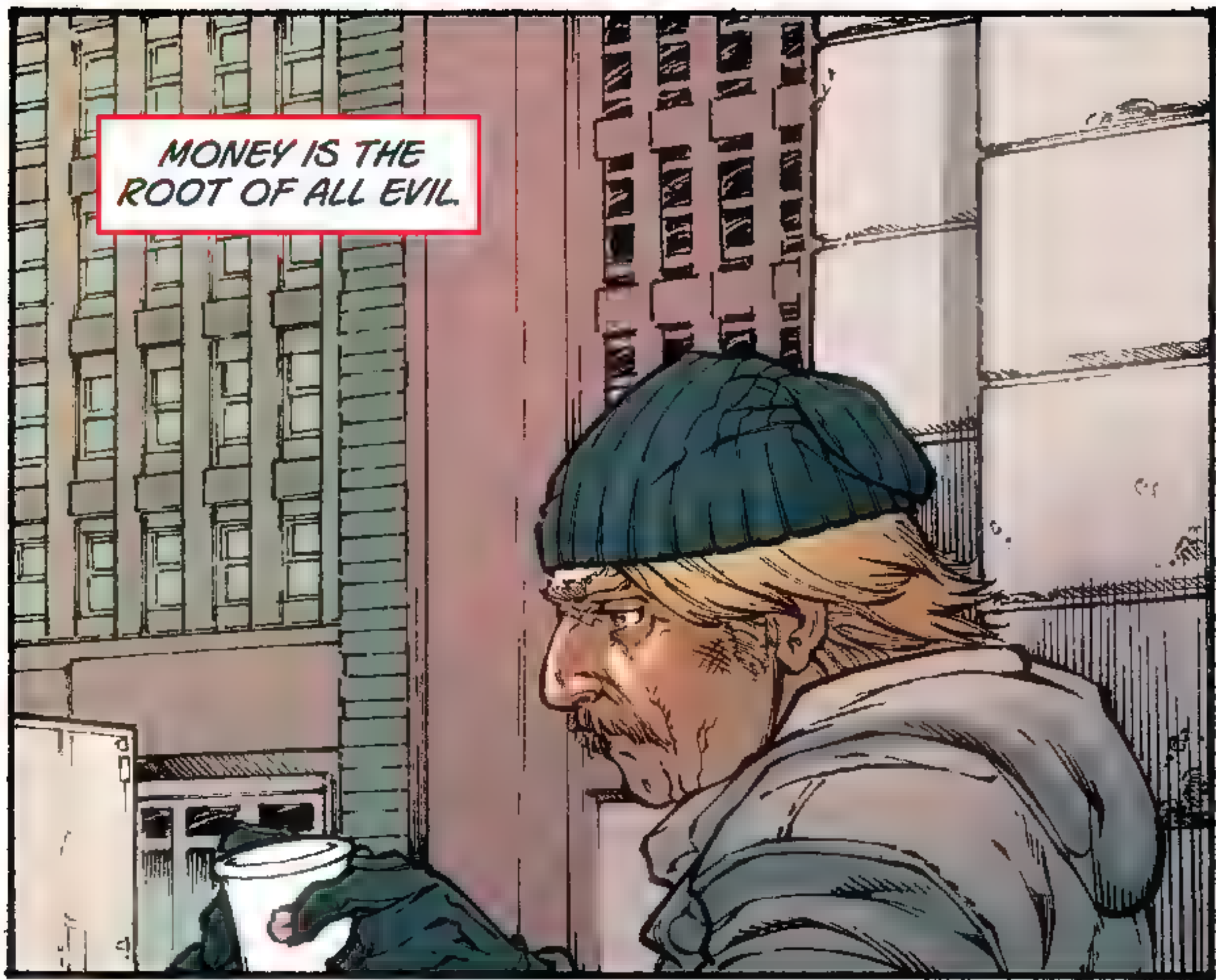
HRROOAAAAR







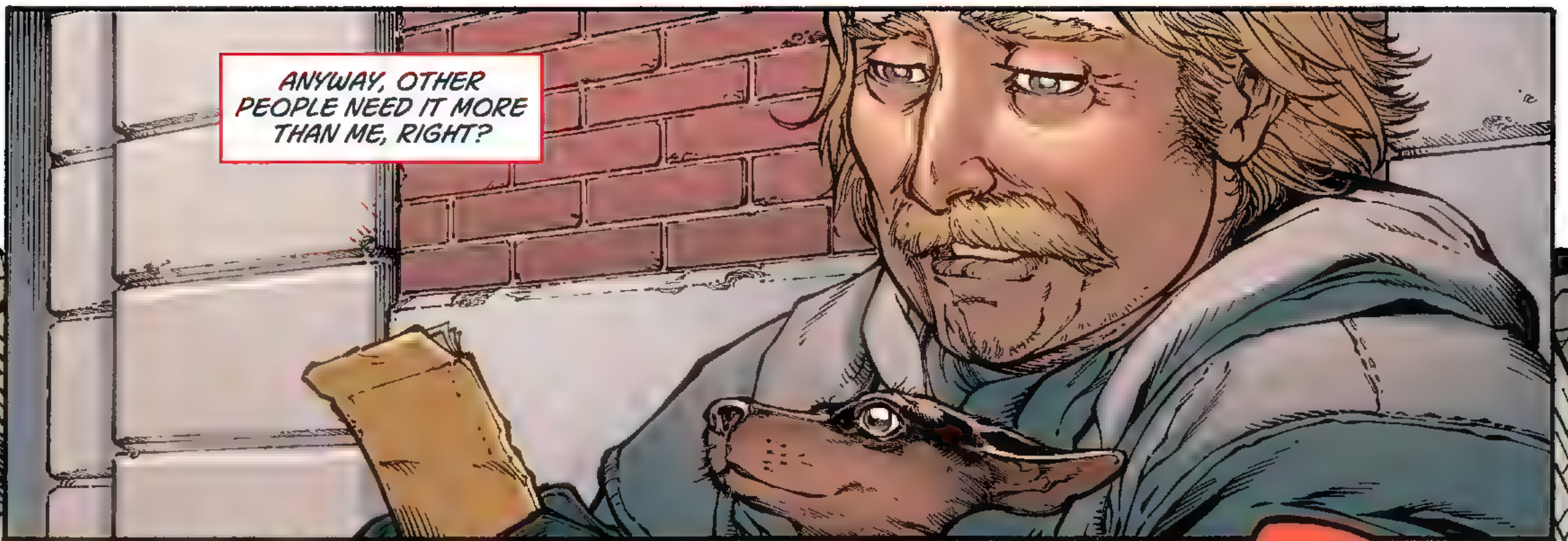




MONEY IS THE
ROOT OF ALL EVIL.



I'M BETTER OFF
WITHOUT IT.



ANYWAY, OTHER
PEOPLE NEED IT MORE
THAN ME, RIGHT?



SO I'LL ORDER A
PIZZA. AND CHARGE IT.

SERVICE
UNAVAILABLE
DUE TO NON-
PAYMENT.

≡SIGH≡

END



THE OTHER WOMAN

JOE KELLY WRITER

JM KEN NIIMURA ART + LETTERING

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TOM BREVOORT EXEC. EDITOR

JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE EXEC. PRODUCER

SO, HOW
WAS YOUR DAY,
DARLING?

YOU'RE KIDDING
RIGHT?

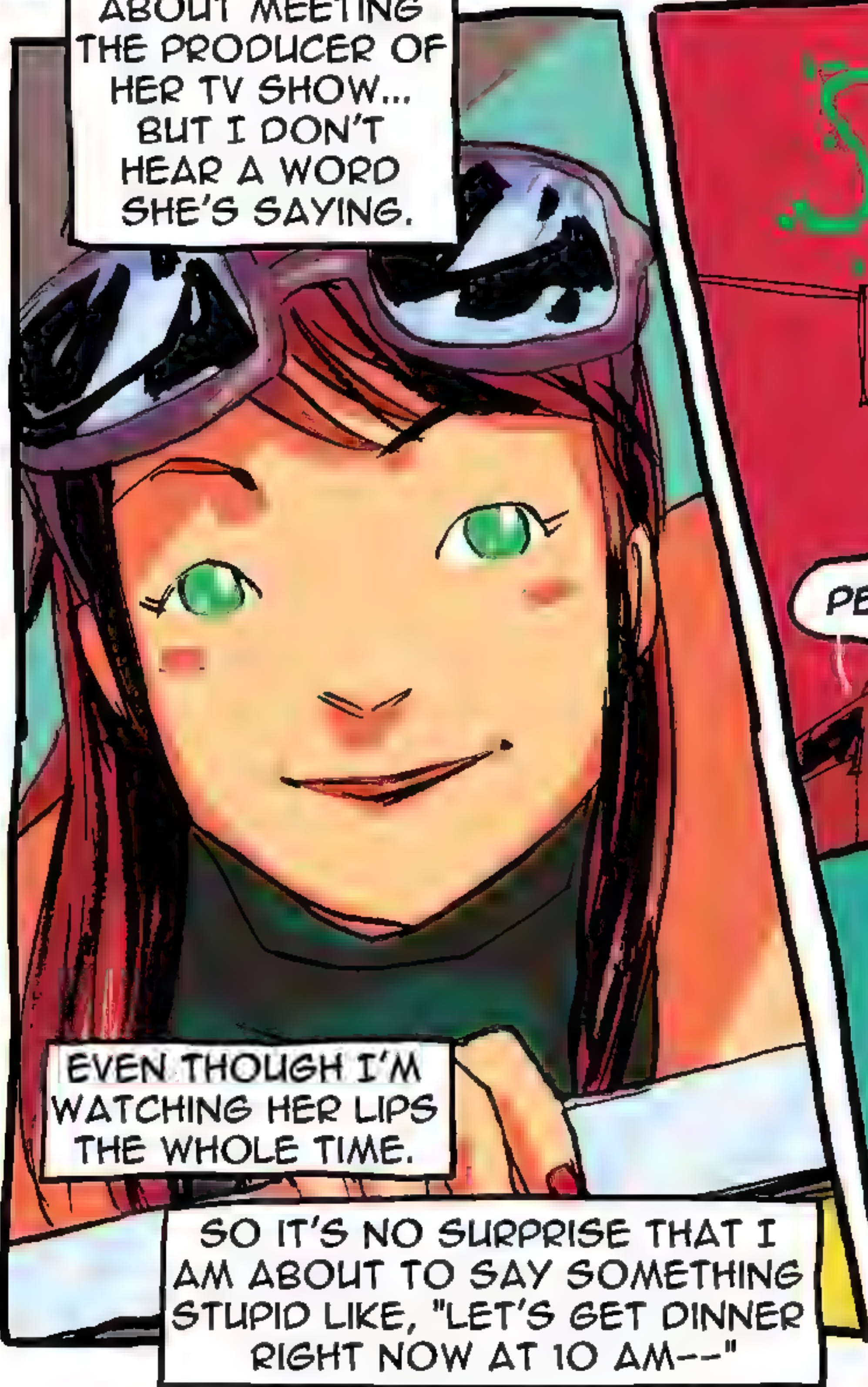
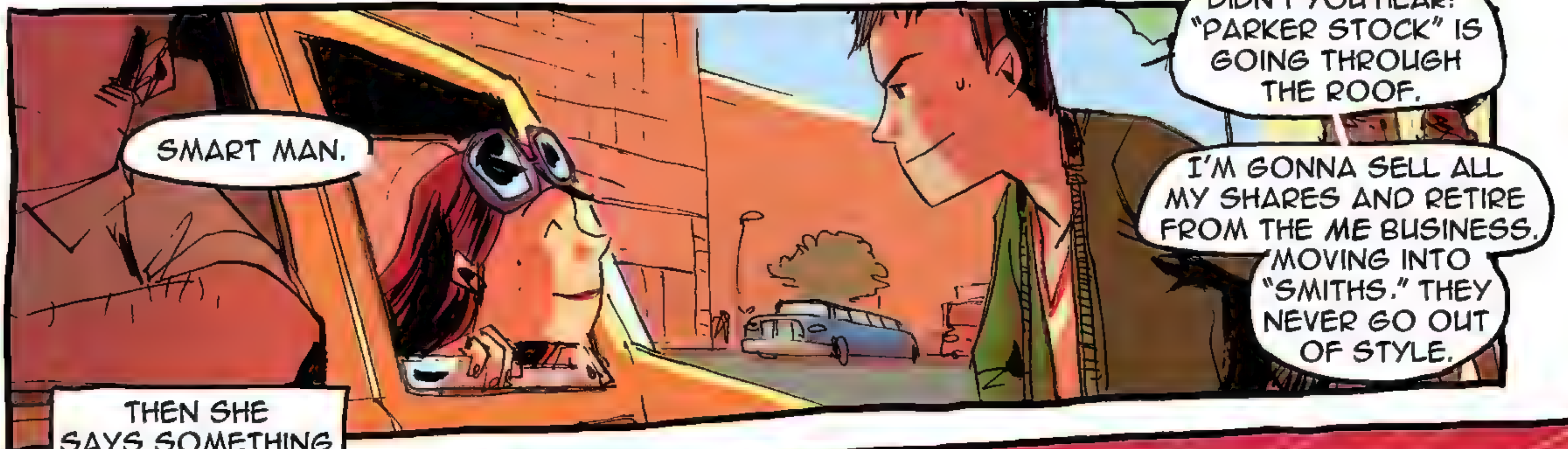
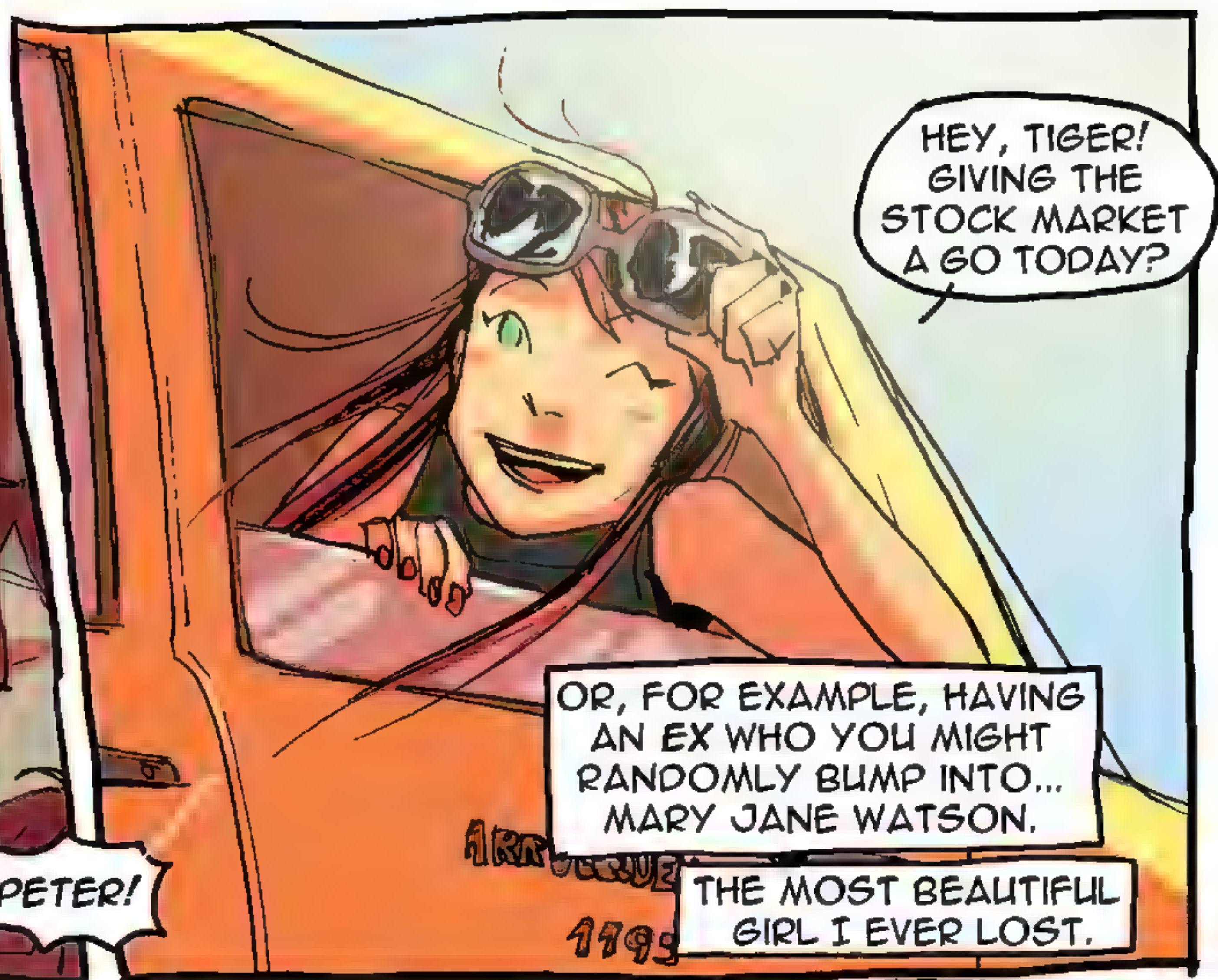
UM, IF I SAY
"HELL YES" WILL THAT
TURN YOU OFF?

NOT AS
LONG AS YOU
PURR IT...

CONFESSION... I'M LYING.
YOU CAUGHT ME. THE
STONE COLD FACT IS
BLACK CAT REALLY DOESN'T
WANT TO KNOW ABOUT
MY DAY IF I SPENT ANY
PORTION OF IT OUT OF
THE RED AND BLUES, AND
IT SORT OF BUGS ME

IT'S HER THING. KEEPING
THIS "RELATIONSHIP"
BETWEEN THE CAT AND THE
SPIDER... NOTHING MORE.

BUT I'M NOT SO SURE
THAT'S POSSIBLE.



...EVEN THOUGH I SHOULD KNOW BETTER... I POKE. TO SEE WHAT GIVES.

THOUGH SHE DID OPEN A CAN OF TRIPLE STRENGTH WHUP ASS ON THESE GUYS AS SOON AS I MENTIONED IT... SO MAYBE...

SWEETHEART, YOU COULD TELL ME YOU RAN INTO YOUR WIFE TODAY--

I SAW AN OLD GIRLFRIEND TODAY.

S'NO MY BUSINESS, BABY.

MMF?

I THINK THE LADY DOTH PROTEST TOO MUCH...

SO LONG AS WHEN YOU'RE WITH ME, YOU'RE WITH ME.

...YOU CAN SPEND TIME WITH WHOMEVER.

WHY, SPIDER, I DO BELIEVE YOU'RE TRYING TO GET ME JEALOUS.

SMOOTH... SHE STORM ISN'T THIS TRANSPARENT.

MAYBE SHE DOES GET JEALOUS... MAYBE--



IS "WHOMEVER" PROPER ENGLISH? I'VE NOTICED THAT YOU GET A LOT MORE GRAMMATICAL WHENEVER YOU'RE JEALOUS?

IT'S OVER.

MAYBE... I'M A HELL OF A LOT MORE SELF-CENTERED THAN I THINK.



THEY WON'T TOUCH YOU AGAIN. EVER.

I'M PUNCHING GUYS IN THE FACE TRYING TO MIND-READ MY FWB...



...AND SHE'S TOTALLY FOCUSED ON THE GOAL.

I PROMISE. COME OUT AND WE'LL GET YOU SOME HELP.



ONE SECOND, SHE'S EVERY GUY'S FANTASY COME TO LIFE AND TOO HOT TO BE TRUE...

...AND IN AN INSTANT, SHE TRANSFORMS INTO A CRISIS COUNSELLOR, WHO WILL GET THIS WOMAN THE HELP SHE NEEDS COME HELL OR HIGH WATER.

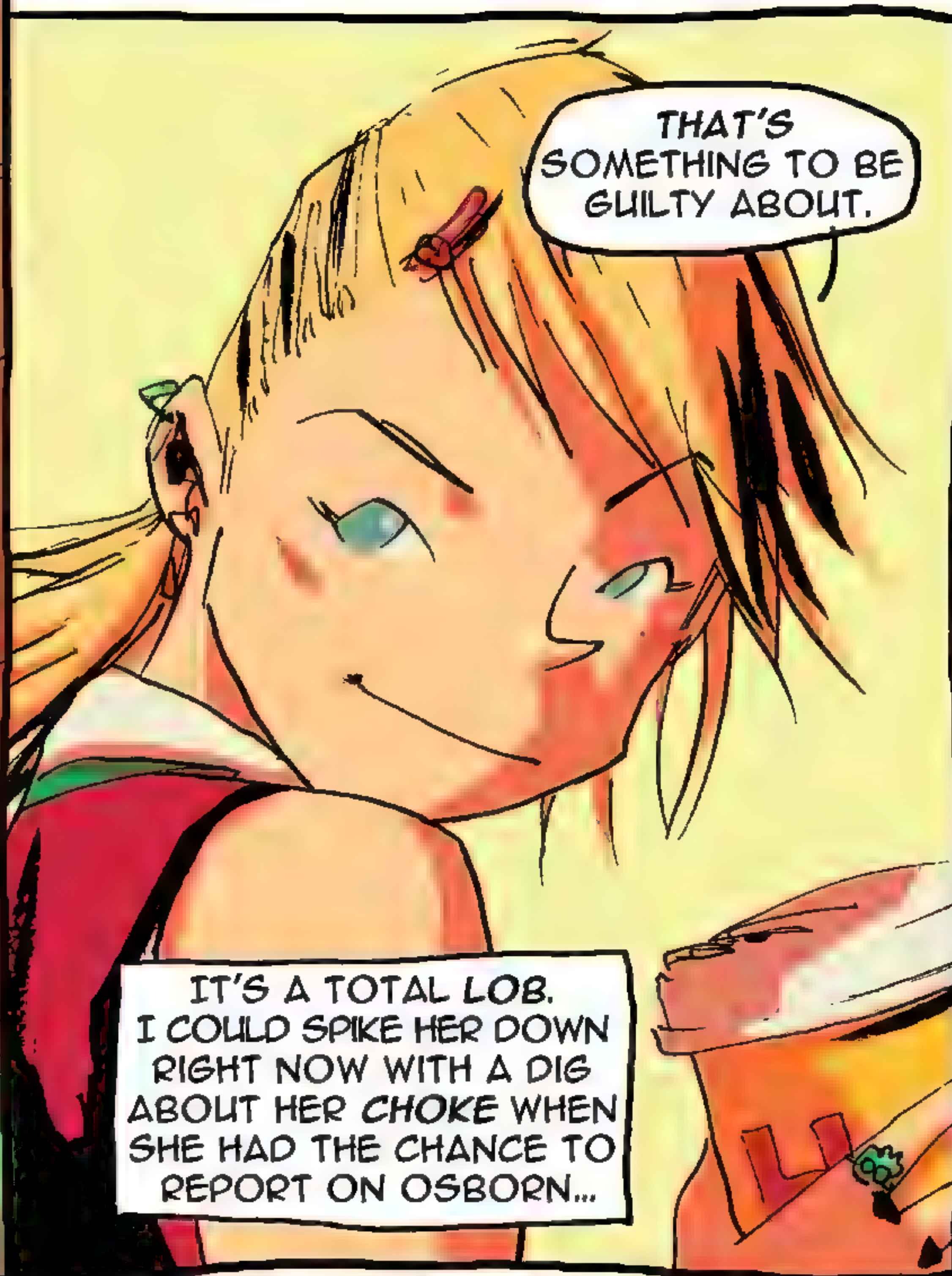


IT'S COMPLICATED,
NORAH.

NO IT ISN'T.

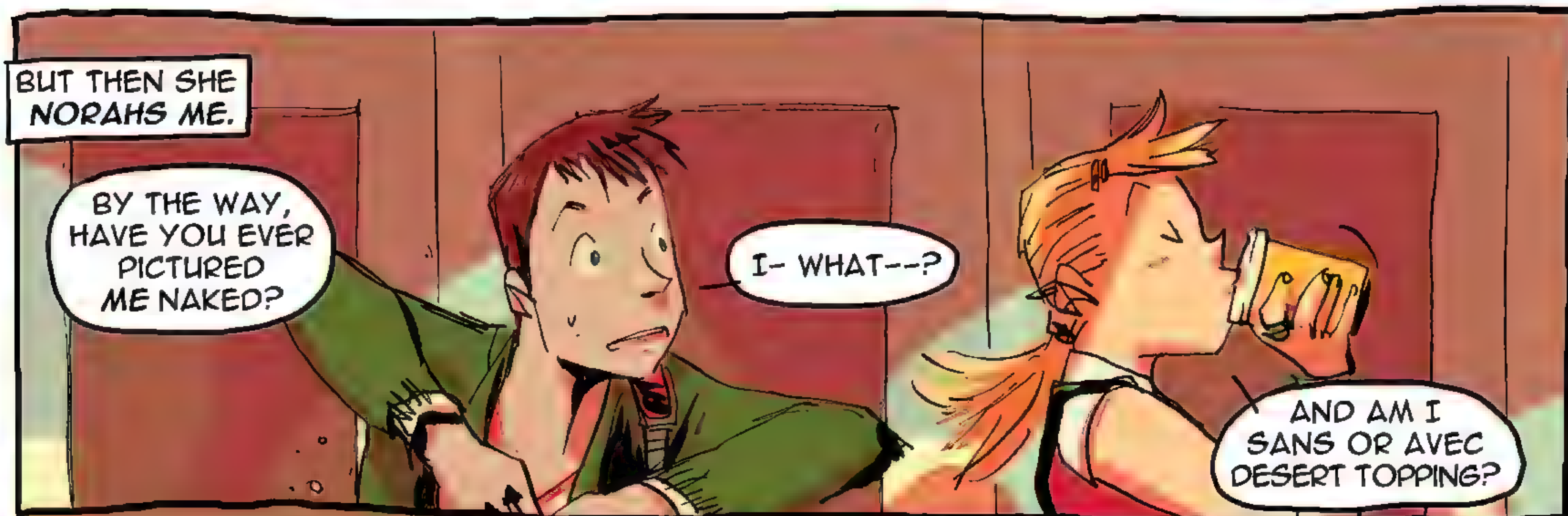
YOU MAKE THE
"SPECIAL HUG" WITH
SOME BIMB WHO DOESN'T
WANT MORE, THAT'S THAT.
NO GUILT. YOU CAN SEE
WHOEV WHENEV.

THE FACT THAT YOU'RE SHILLING
FOR JAMESON WHEN YOU SHOULD
BE BLOWING UP HIS SPOT...



THAT'S
SOMETHING TO BE
GUILTY ABOUT.

IT'S A TOTAL LOB.
I COULD SPIKE HER DOWN
RIGHT NOW WITH A DIG
ABOUT HER CHOKE WHEN
SHE HAD THE CHANCE TO
REPORT ON OSBORN...



BUT THEN SHE
NORAHS ME.

BY THE WAY,
HAVE YOU EVER
PICTURED
ME NAKED?

I- WHAT--?

AND AM I
SANS OR AVEC
DESERT TOPPING?



AND IT'S THAT
SPLIT-SECOND OF
HORMONE POISON-
ING THAT MAKES ME
IGNORE THE SPIDEY
SENSE AND--

BUT THIS ISN'T
ABOUT NORAH.
I DON'T THINK...
MAYBE...

I AM SO
MESSSED IN
THE HEAD.



YOU'RE GOOD.

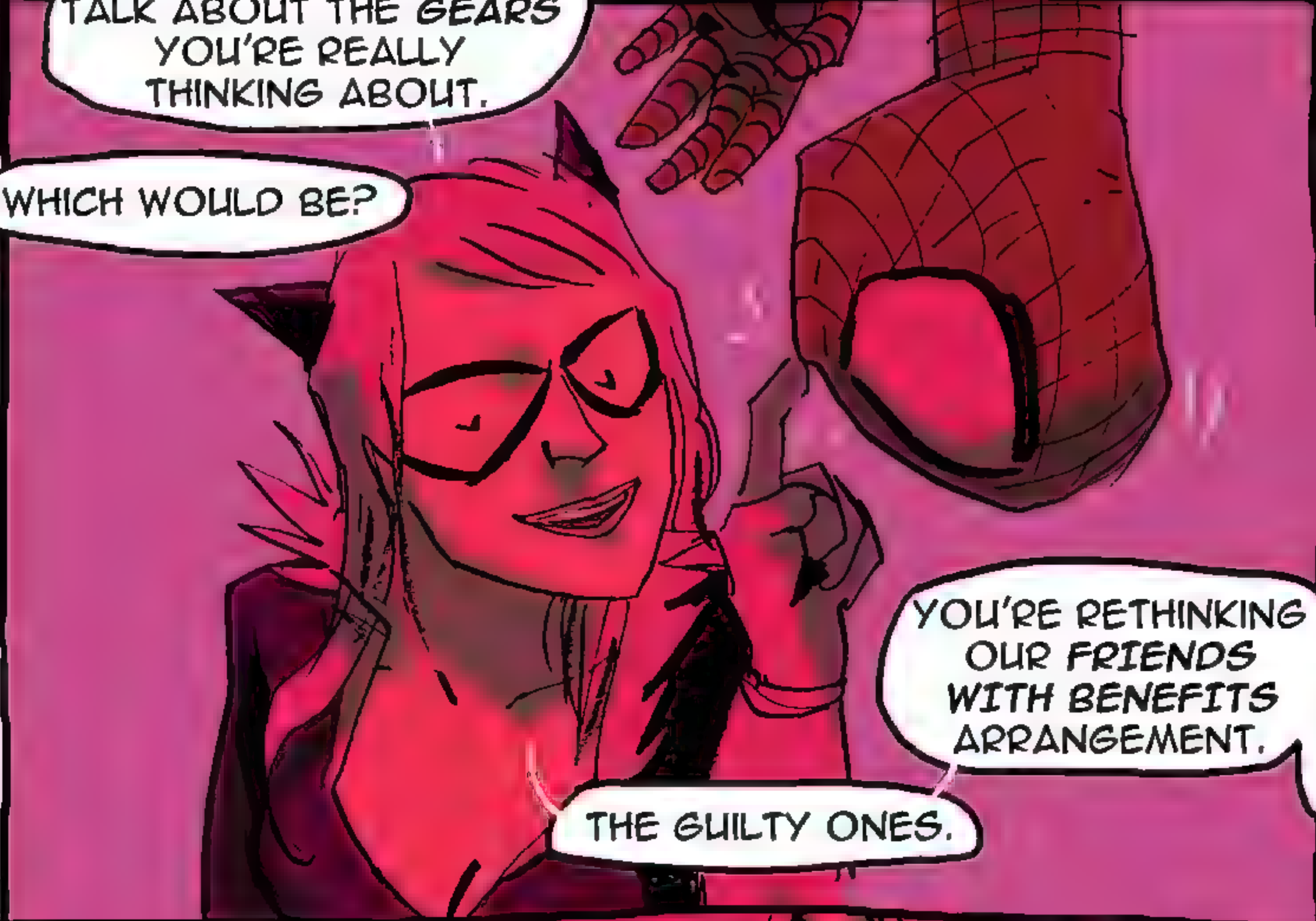
WOW, AND WE STILL HAVE OUR CLOTHES ON.

I MEAN WITH HER. YOU WERE AMAZING. THE WAY YOU SHIFT GEARS... IT'S SO SMOOTH.

THANKS, SPIDER...

BUT WHY DON'T WE TALK ABOUT THE GEARS YOU'RE REALLY THINKING ABOUT.

WHICH WOULD BE?



YOU'RE RETHINKING OUR FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS ARRANGEMENT.

THE GUILTY ONES.

WONDERING IF IT'S "OKAY". TRYING TO MEASURE IT AGAINST SOME STANDARD.

WONDERING IF IT'S A MISTAKE.

I GAVE UP TWO THINGS A LONG TIME AGO. GUILT AND SUFFERING.

BEING WITH YOU CAUSES ME NEITHER OF THESE FEELINGS, THEREFORE, IT'S A GOOD THING.

BUT IF IT'S NOT THE SAME IN YOUR WEBBED-HEAD, JUST SAY SO. WE'LL CALL IT QUILTS RIGHT NOW.

YOUR LOSS...BUT NO HARM NO FOUL.

BUT--



SO WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE?

IS SPIDER-MAN ALLOWED ONE GUILTY PLEASURE?



IT'S AMAZING WHAT
I'LL LET MYSELF DO
WHEN SOMEONE GIVES
ME PERMISSION.

THE FUNNY THING IS...



I DID HAVE
SOMETHING ON MY
MIND TODAY...

SOME GUILT...



NOT ABOUT THE
ETHICS OF OUR
RELATIONSHIP...

...WASN'T ABOUT
ANOTHER WOMAN...



BUT IT WAS
ABOUT AN EX...

NICE
CATCH.

AND A SECRET.

PARKER! GOOD LORD, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DOCUMENTING MY TENURE NOT ATTACKING MY STAFF!

IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT, MR. MAYOR. NO PROBLEM.

AN "ACCIDENT." YEAH. JUST LIKE SHE ACCIDENTALLY SOUNDS AND SMELLS EXACTLY LIKE ANOTHER WOMAN I TRIP AROUND. HELLO BLACK CAT.

PETER PAR-

PARKER. I KNOW. IT'S MY JOB.

ASHLEY MOON, DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATIONS.

PETE, YOU NEED A NAPKIN? YOU GOT LIKE A DROOLY THING HAPPENING.

AND I WAS GONNA TELL HER, RIGHT THERE...

SO YOU'RE WORKING WITH MAYOR JAMESON? GUESS WE'LL BE SEEING A LOT OF EACH OTHER--

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT.

PRESS CONFERENCE IN THREE, PEOPLE! PARKER, STOP FRATERNIZING!

FRATERNIZING ALL OVER HIS PANTS. GROW UP, PARKER.

...BUT SPIDER-MAN IS ALLOWED A GUILTY PLEASURE...

AND THIS ONE JUST MADE WORK A LOT MORE INTERESTING.

THE END



AMAZING SPIDER-MAN PRESENTS: BLACK CAT #1 VARIANT
BY J. SCOTT CAMPBELL

THE CAT IS B(L)ACK!

It's international intrigue at its sexiest by Jen Van Meter (*Hopeless Savages*, *JSA*) and Javier Pulido (*Amazing Spider-Man*). As Spider-Man is stalked during the Grim Hunt, the world's slyest, smartest and sneakiest jewel thief's latest heist puts the Black Cat face-to-face with the family that has been terrorizing Spidey's dreams and threatening those closest to him!

Plus: Spider-Man finally strikes it rich thanks to the Black Cat, but it's one payday he may live to regret. And finally, meet the latest lady in Peter's life: the mayor's new Department of Investigations hire, Ashley Moon.

Collecting *Amazing Spider-Man Presents: Black Cat* #1-4, and material from *The Many Loves of the Amazing Spider-Man* and *Amazing Spider-Man* #612.



MARVEL

T+

